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2. If a person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount, whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

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Communications designed for publication should be addressed to

C. D. BRIGHAM, Editor.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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THE GOLDEN NOW.

The earth is loud with discontentments muttered
By foolish mouths—the selfish and the vain—
And yet a world of agony unuttered
Lies hidden in the silence of their pain.

The voiceless dark is loaded with repentance,
In solemn courts of midnight, where, o'ercast
With sorrow, conscience pleads its silent sentence
Against the culprit actions of the past.

And countless eyes, aglaze with hot reflections,
Look down the blighting years which their feet have known,
Where stand afar the ghostly recollections,
Like frowning statues, not to be o'erthrown.

While fancy sees them rise in retributions
A specter more than in any other cavity
To blight the hope and chill the resolutions,
Which night should marshal for the coming day.

Oh! ye who cower a tremble at the errors
Relenking memory conjures where you wait,
Rise, and clear the path with all its terrors,
With hand indignant, swing the iron gate!

Rise in the golden now, and open its portal,
That door and 1 which is closed to sin and shame,
Bring your manhood and your soul immortal,
Go forward to the harvest of your hopes.

Nor let the future mantle of December
Remain a cerecl's dark and shadowy gray,
To doom your aged anguish to remember
The precious chances thrown by in a day.

What's done is done—let errors past recalling,
In guilty waters of oblivion drown;
'Tis folly of retrospection, like a fond calling,
Wills to the root the flower of courage down.

Until despair half makes the soul contented,
To sit reluctant at the pet untried—
Let manful breathing over what's repented,
Is but the drug of constant suicide.

Such a sorrow is a winter out foreboding
For future wilderness blights of care,
While cheerful thoughts are nappy song-birds, loading
With May-time music all the summer air.

The vain regrets we nurture in our bosoms
Are deadly night-shades, which we feed with tears;
But all the richer heart becomes a bed of blossoms
When hope is fecund and contentment cheers.

Shake from your feet the dust with wholesome scornig
Against the night, ne'er to be numbered
From out the cloudy cakness, like the morning,
With shining brow, go forth into the sun.

And to the duty nearest, most defiant,
With steadfast courage, lay your shouldered strength,
And conquering success like a giant,
Arise the master of yourself at length.

Prophetic hopes shall lead you to new pleasures,
Along the yielding pathway of the plain,
To pilot harvests and to chant measures,
The fruit of action in the golden now.

And when the tranquil evening crowns your labor
With sheaves, and fruits, and wreaths, and household songs,
At peace with Heaven, your conscience, and your neighbor,
Resign your prayerful heart where it belongs.

—*T. Buchanan Read.*

SEX IN NATURE.

The Theory of Sexuality in Soils and all Ponderable Matter.

At a recent meeting of the Summit County Farmers' Club, Dr. A. Underhill delivered an address setting forth the theory of sexuality in soil and in all ponderable matter. His view is given in the following extract:

The foregoing axiomatic propositions of statements no scientific mind will hesitate to admit; that sex exists all must admit. Whence does it arise? is the question. Is it inherent in all ponderable elements which form plants, insects and animals, as well as man, or is it dependent and determined by special intervention or fiats? Would not greater wisdom be manifested by the Divine mind, or cause, by endowing all ponderable matter with sexuality or productive energies in all special fats and degrees determine the sex of every individual existence? I am aware that science has discovered and taught that soils are positive and negative, of the elements forming soils. The positive elements or soils are what I denominate masculine, and the negative forming, feminine. Those terms, positive and negative, however, do not convey the idea of sex or generative powers or functions in matter or soils. To render the subject more clearly comprehended, I will make the following declaration; but it may be considered equally true that the unponderable forms of matter, energy acting upon and through matter, are sexual also. But to the Declaration: That the terms positive, or masculine elements in the universe could be placed on one scale, and all the like female or negative elements in another scale, and the infinite hold the place, they would be exactly equipoised or balanced. Hence it is inferred that as the matter in its primordial state is sexual, and as there are some beings that are masculine and others feminine, some soils or locations are predominantly one or the other, and as neither sex can produce or generate offspring without the other, so neither of the soils; hence in either a proper balance is necessary.

It is claimed that these two principles, the masculine and feminine, are found in all matter at motion and gravitation, attraction and repulsion. Comprehending these primordial or fundamental actions which are constantly going on among the heavenly bodies, a rational and philosophical theory is at hand for the origin of the matter. Every student of geology and mineralogy is aware that no such scientific and philosophical theory is extant.

It is well understood, I suppose, that at or were within or connected with the matter, are certain ever present unpondenable substances, as motion, gravitation, caloric, life with the electrics and magnetics, etc. These inherent unimpressent principles are the agencies, the mechanisms, the manufactures of forms, inanimate as well as animate. This theory, to my mind, is not only philosophic and rational, but implies the most perfect system and skill, power and wisdom of the infinite cause, a power and wisdom which no finite mind can ever be fully comprehend, but of its existence we have the fullest demonstration in His works and government.

But I must pass on to a statement of a few facts bearing upon the theory here presented. Time and space will admit of but a few. Taking the elements which are masculine, sulphur and lime may be named; and for the feminine, the salts and the clays. Hence in harmony with this theory where the feminine existed largely and as it were, almost exclusively, the salts, as in the desert, no vegetable life should appear, and so they did. The salt sea is the natural womb of mother earth, and here according to our theory the sexes are the most; the best forms did organize both animal and vegetable. "The spirit of God moved upon the waters," implying of facts, and I must, for the present, rest without presenting them, and pass on and attempt to show the bearing of this theory upon the products of the soil.

It will readily be perceived that if this theory is correct, that when the two elements, masculine and feminine, are most nearly balanced, all other things being equal, the offspring or productions will be more healthy and vigorous. Until science can teach, and as it were, embrace this theory, and the agriculturists are accepted of it, and practice it, empiricism or quackery will continue among farmers as well as doctors. The lime and sandy soils require the saliues to balance them and the clay and sandy soils being feminine, require the lime, etc. But the drift soils are generally light, and contain both, and hence their productiveness.

It is the business of the farmer to restore lost balances or to supply the necessary elements while he is lacking in the soil. The guano of commerce coming from the tropical islands contains lime, ammonia and soda or both. These few hints will serve to turn the farmer's mind in the proper channel when in pursuit of fertilizers. Let him first and study his soils and satisfy himself which element is wanting. In some worn out soils both may be so exhausted as to require a supply of both of these mineral fertilizers, such as salt, lime, plaster, etc., the higher form are one or the other, and the value and importance to many soils of vegetable and animal manures in connection with these theories will be seen until we comprehend this theory of the sexuality of soils, we can not understand the different fertilizers and their judicious application to the various soils. This question, my friends, is not whether this theory be true or not, but whether it harmonizes with nature's indications and is sustained by facts and philosophy.

THE GLACIERS OF AMERICA.

Interesting Speculations Regarding their Origin.

Prof. James D. Dana, the distinguished geologist of Yale, has just published in the *American Journal of Science* an interesting and valuable paper "on the position and height of the elevated plateau in which the glacier of New Hampshire is situated, and on its origin." The Professor introduces his research with the remark that "the existence of a region of high elevation in northern America as the source of a continued glacier in the glacial era has often been assumed, but rather inferred than proved, and the same is true without it than as a result of special research with respect to the extent and location of such a region." Prof. Dana then concisely gives the direction of the glacial furrows and scratches crossing the Green and White Mountains, and shows that they could not have been made with the land of North America as it now exists, and that these scratches on the Rocky summit of New England point toward some great region of elevated lands, now in part covered by the snows and ice that began its southerly motion. He gives it as his opinion that the icy plateau whence the great glacier took its departure must have been situated near or on the western border of Hudson's Bay, and that the glacier moved southward over the whole valley of the Ottawa and on the slopes to the east of it, having, to this distant day, the track of its course, strongly marked on the rocks, as we have shown. With from 6,000 to 8,000 feet thickness of ice, the glacier kept on its course, guided only by the general slope of the land, but at the same time moulded itself into the larger valley and into many of the smaller slopes. The intense cold that is known to have existed in the American glacial era is also naturally accounted for if the land of Northern Labrador, and the plateau, being an elevation higher than the summit of Mount Washington.

The upward movement of the glacial era, which carried the north at least 5,000 feet above its present level, was followed by the slow subsidence of the "Champlain period," when the same lands sunk to a greater extent than they had previously been raised, letting down the valley of the St. Lawrence about Montreal, 600 feet below its present level, and probably 1,000 feet below its glacial-era level. With this sinking of the land began the melting of the glacier. Owing to the sinking of the land on the north, the glacier on the southern rivers had their slope greatly lessened, and in some cases made quite level for long distances, and by the rise of the land in Africa and Asia other rivers had their channels so obstructed that they were forced to cut new passages, while other water courses of the glacial era, like that of the St. Lawrence, at that from the Champlain lake down the Hudson River valley. Then came the "terrace period," during which the land reached its present level, while the river channels were deepened, and the lake and river terraces, which now lower the continent, were formed.

The Development of Russia.

A London journal publishes some interesting statistics relative to the intellectual and material development of Russia during the past few years. The unsatisfactory state of public education, it should be remarked, is accounted for by the deficiency of teachers. There are 622 professorships in the Russian universities, of which 202 are vacant. The number of middle schools in Russia is ninety-eight, and there are 199 vacancies for teachers, which taken is at present no prospect of filling up. The newspapers, on the other hand, have increased in number and circulation. There are ninety periodicals in St. Petersburg alone, and the Postoffice sends to the provinces 80,327 copies of journals, 1,000,000 of weekly ones, and 60,743 of periodicals which appear once a month.

The greatest progress has, however, been made in the commercial and industrial departments. In 1860 the value of the exports was 203,000,000 roubles, and of the imports 138,181,745 roubles; in 1870 the exports were sold for 351,578,853 roubles, and the value of the imports was 295,000,000 roubles. The foreign trade of Russia has thus increased by 125 per cent. in the last ten years. The increase in the imports, moreover, is not a normal one, for it is caused to a considerable extent by the importation of arms, flax, hemp, bacon, cattle, a long road wood. This largest trade is with England, (exports 170,000,000 roubles, imports 167,000,000) next comes Prussia, which took 47,000,000 roubles worth of exports, and imported into Russia 125,000,000 roubles worth.

MR. WM. H. ORTON, President of the Western Union Telegraph Line, says that, under the existing laws, Congress can, at any time, take full possession of the various telegraph companies of the country. He stated that the Government, if it wished to carry out the proposed scheme of a Postal Telegraphic Department, has now only to appoint appraisers and go on with the work of closing up the affairs of the present companies; but Mr. Orton is vigorous in his opposition to the entire idea, as a plan that will be unjust to the telegraph companies and unprofitable to the nation.

LETTER FROM KANSAS.

Soil, Products, Climate, etc., of Jefferson County.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.
OSKALOOSA, KS., November 30, 1871.

I have been written to from time to time by citizens from the East, and more particularly from Pennsylvania, my own native State, inquiring about Kansas and Jefferson county. I have and do still answer all such letters with pleasure. There are now very many Pennsylvanians located in this county, perhaps more than in any other county in the State, I have concluded it might be interesting to such citizens who are anxious to come here, to know a few facts relative to this country, which, if you see fit to publish, will meet your subscribers and a large number of my personal friends.

THE SOIL AND PRODUCTS OF KANSAS.

The soil of this country is excellent. Corn, wheat and all small grains do well. On upland prairie fifty to sixty bushels of corn are raised per acre on an average, in meadow-land, by reason of the rich and all kinds of vegetables grow to perfection. There is no crop that does not do well in this country, if properly cultivated. The soil is much easier to farm and keep in order than in most of the older States. Farmers say a hand can cultivate two acres here in less time and with much less labor than one in Pennsylvania, New York, or any of the older States.

FRUITS OF ALL KINDS.

Large and small, do admirably. The award of the gold medal at Philadelphia was fully merited. The fruit grown here is not only of good size and perfect development, but of most excellent flavor. Apples, pears, cherries, plums, all do well, while strawberries, grapes and all kindred fruits develop splendidly. As a fruit-growing State, Kansas ranks among the first, and Jefferson county is one of the best counties in the State for fruit.

TIMBER AND WATER.

Timber is rather on the increase than otherwise. Oak, walnut, ash, hickory, elm, &c., abound, and in some places the soft maple. The county is well watered. The Kaw river is its western boundary line for twenty-miles. Grasshopper river runs through it from north to south; Slough, Walnut, Rock, Crooked, Mud, Cider, Muddy, Buck and many creeks run through different portions of its territory. Springs abound, and in digging for wells water can be reached at from fifteen to fifty feet, an average of about twenty to twenty-five feet. In most parts of the county the water is of excellent quality.

Indications of the presence of various ores are found. Except stone coal no minerals have been mined. Stone coal exists throughout all the county; it is found cropping out in various places, and is being mined to a considerable extent by the inhabitants. Specimens of iron, lead and copper have been found, and this would suffice to ransom a prince when princes were worth ransoming.

Upon the strength of this information a party of leading citizens was at once organized to investigate the matter. It was composed of some of the adventurers landed from their skiffs on President's Island. Placing his theodolite exactly in front of the venerable tree—and they said, from its appearance, have sheltered De Soto and his band—Captain B——— proceeded to lay out his first angle inclosed by the parchment lines. At the first corner of every one, the "distance" brought the party to a lonely grave on the shore of the river, known as a gulch, worn by the mad freaks of the storm in times gone by, were the remains of a boat of a fashion that no American has designed for the last half-century, an continent for more than two hundred years, although the same description of vessels still navigate the waters of the Nile, the Ganges, and are still built by the descendants of the same Spanish people who first brought to the knowledge of the world our Mississippi. The boat had been constructed from a single log, and was about forty feet long and ten feet wide. The wood had almost been transformed into coal by some strange atmospheric cause, and the truth of what we say can be seen by any one who will examine it, which was brought from the spot by our reporter, and is now in the possession of Captain Brown. From the ruined stern protruded an iron which had once secured the rudder, and which bore the initials "P. de S." Whether or not this is the remains of one of De Soto's boats it is impossible to determine with certainty, but the impression was decidedly of the opinion that the wood of which it was composed had been exposed to the action of the elements for more than two centuries.

The inference was irresistible. In the course of ten minutes the workmen had excavated a pit about three feet in diameter and two in depth.

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XLIII CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 11, 1871.

SENATE.

Mr. TRUMBULL moved to substitute his resolution for Mr. Conkling's, and read from the report of the Joint Committee on Retrenchment on the abuses in the New York Custom house, to show the necessity for the repeal of that Committee; that the salaries of supernumerary weighers alone amounted to $5,700 a year; that by the warehousing system in use, importers were robbed of immense sums annually, and that a great many other kinds of plundering were going on in the name of the Government. It was generally believed throughout the country that the patronage of the Government was used for mere partisan purposes, or worse, in many cases for personal purposes; and the time had come when it was necessary to investigate in every department of the Government whether these things were as charged, to expose them if they were so, and if not, to set the public mind at rest by the statement of the truth. In olden times removals from subordinate Government offices were of rare occurrence. There were only five general removals during the eight years of Washington's administration, and only ten during that of the elder Adams. Even Jefferson, when he came into power, found the offices filled with his political adversaries, removed only thirty-nine persons during his two terms. Madison removed nine in eight years; Monroe only nine, and John Q. Adams only two. In those days men were appointed to office for their fidelity to the Constitution, their ability and integrity, and not for mere partisan reasons. Jackson, however, made a great many removals, and introduced the spoils doctrine, which has ever since been poisoning the purity of the civil service. Party organization was necessary and proper, and when a party came into power, it ought of course to select for all offices requiring the exercise of discretion persons in harmony with itself; but when it came to filling subordinate and merely ministerial offices, the question should not be about mere party connections, but about their fitness to carry out the duties of the office and their integrity. He (Mr. Trumbull) did not believe in using the patronage and power of the Government for the purpose of perpetuating party rule, but for the purpose of promoting measures best for the interests of the whole country, and therefore he was in favor of filling subordinate government offices with the most upright and capable men who could be found to take them, instead of with mere partisan of late years, however, appointment to office under the Government had become not merely a party matter, but in a great many instances a personal matter. Every Senator knew that the principal grounds upon which office was sought or obtained now were that the applicant was poor or sick, or had been unfortunate in business, and wanted the Government to give him an office by which he could retrieve his fortunes or else upon the ground that he had been very influential at some election. In this connection Mr. Trumbull read an extract from the testimony of a witness examined by the Committee on retrenchment, as being asked what influence operated for him his position in the New York custom house, he replied that it was his own political standing. Now, said Mr. Trumbull, that was a principle of action for the purpose of following up the investigations that have been made in regard to this question of use of patronage. I want a thorough and a practical reform, of the civil service. I believe it would be a long step toward reform in the law of commencing members of Congress with appointments to office, and I introduced a bill some time ago to that effect. That bill provided that no person should be appointed to any office who had obtained recommendation from any member of Congress, it would have a very salutary effect. It would relieve applicants for office, but upon members of Congress and heads of departments also. The independence of members of Congress cannot be maintained when they have to put themselves under obligations for appointment of their friends to office, and the independence of heads of departments cannot be maintained when they are liable to be assailed by members because they do not make such and such appointments to office. It is not an unusual thing, even in this body, for such appointments to have been made; at least such things have occurred in former times, I think. There is abroad a general impression that there is great corruption in public service. The late exposures in New York have awakened a public sentiment on this subject throughout the country, but how was it possible for Tammany to perpetrate those frauds? It never would have been possible except upon the principle of partisanship in office. Republicans do you suppose that the men who have been arrested for robbing the public of a million or two, or two millions of dollars have got those millions? I doubt not they have a considerable portion, but I believe that they have had to spend a large portion of them to keep themselves in power year after year. The money has been used for political purposes with political "influence"—paid for the packing of conventions and carrying elections by ballot stuffing, &c. The system is exceedingly profitable. It is, however, a mistaken idea that the advantages in this country are so great that men can come here without capital and in a very short time become independently wealthy. The chances for the husbandman are greater here, as I verily believe; in that they can purchase cheap lands now, cheaper and which are far more productive than any in the East, with a good market for all they raise, and the value of their property increasing continually; but it is much easier to farm and keep in order than in most of the older States. Farmers say a hand can cultivate two acres here in less time and with much less labor than one in Pennsylvania, New York, or any of the older States.

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The Skeleton in Lady Blessington's Closet.

Those who saw Lady Blessington in her brilliant drawing-room only, surrounded by the flash of wit and the blaze of genius, know little of the hideous skeleton locked within the bondoir. Distant observation viewed her in one light, but those who stood behind the scenes regarded her in another. Her dressing maid thus describes her anxieties:

Laboring night and day at literary work, all her anxiety was to pay her debt, she was ludicrously trying to curtail all her expenses in the establishment, and constantly toiling to get money. Worried and harassed as not being able to pay bills when they are sent in, and seeing large expenses still going on, without the means to meet them, she got no sleep at night. And yet Gore House suffered no abatement of its splendor. Receptions, balls and reunions followed each other in endless succession, her saloons were crowded night after night with the beauty and wit of aristocratic society, Count D'Orsay presided twice every week at the sumptuous dinners that drew the *elite* of the fashionable and literary world round her table, and her stables witnessed no decrease in well groomed horses and stylish equipages for the daily calls upon her friends or drives along the banks of the serpentine.

For the two or three last years of her London life, its sham must have made her sick at heart. Tradesmen's bills unpaid and constantly increasing, her number servants clamorous for their wages—protested acceptances for borrowed money pressed constantly by the gentleman, and at last bailiffs and executions crowded her doors, and seeking through various subterfuges to gain admittance into the unfortunate condition of Lady Blessington's life. To her son's ears she must have loathed it. Sensible of the holiness of the ties by nature, Jackson, however, had made a great many removals, and introduced the spoils doctrine, which has ever since been poisoning the purity of the civil service. Party organization was necessary and proper, and when a party came into power, it ought of course to select for all offices requiring the exercise of discretion persons in harmony with itself; but when it came to filling subordinate and merely ministerial offices, the question should not be about mere party connections, but about their fitness to carry out the duties of the office and their integrity. He (Mr. Trumbull) did not believe in using the patronage and power of the Government for the purpose of perpetuating party rule, but for the purpose of promoting measures best for the interests of the whole country, and therefore he was in favor of filling subordinate government offices with the most upright and capable men who could be found to take them, instead of with mere partisan of late years, however, appointment to office under the Government had become not merely a party matter, but in a great many instances a personal matter. Every Senator knew that the principal grounds upon which office was sought or obtained now were that the applicant was poor or sick, or had been unfortunate in business, and wanted the Government to give him an office by which he could retrieve his fortunes or else upon the ground that he had been very influential at some election. In this connection Mr. Trumbull read an extract from the testimony of a witness examined by the Committee on retrenchment, as being asked what influence operated for him his position in the New York custom house, he replied that it was his own political standing. Now, said Mr. Trumbull, that was a principle of action for the purpose of following up the investigations that have been made in regard to this question of use of patronage. I want a thorough and a practical reform, of the civil service. I believe it would be a long step toward reform in the law of commencing members of Congress with appointments to office, and I introduced a bill some time ago to that effect. That bill provided that no person should be appointed to any office who had obtained recommendation from any member of Congress, it would have a very salutary effect. It would relieve applicants for office, but upon members of Congress and heads of departments also. The independence of members of Congress cannot be maintained when they have to put themselves under obligations for appointment of their friends to office, and the independence of heads of departments cannot be maintained when they are liable to be assailed by members because they do not make such and such appointments to office. It is not an unusual thing, even in this body, for such appointments to have been made; at least such things have occurred in former times, I think. There is abroad a general impression that there is great corruption in public service. The late exposures in New York have awakened a public sentiment on this subject throughout the country, but how was it possible for Tammany to perpetrate those frauds? It never would have been possible except upon the principle of partisanship in office. Republicans do you suppose that the men who have been arrested for robbing the public of a million or two, or two millions of dollars have got those millions? I doubt not they have a considerable portion, but I believe that they have had to spend a large portion of them to keep themselves in power year after year. The money has been used for political purposes with political "influence"—paid for the packing of conventions and carrying elections by ballot stuffing, &c. The system is exceedingly profitable. It is, however, a mistaken idea that the advantages in this country are so great that men can come here without capital and in a very short time become independently wealthy. The chances for the husbandman are greater here, as I verily believe; in that they can purchase cheap lands now, cheaper and which are far more productive than any in the East, with a good market for all they raise, and the value of their property increasing continually; but it is much easier to farm and keep in order than in most of the older States. Farmers say a hand can cultivate two acres here in less time and with much less labor than one in Pennsylvania, New York, or any of the older States.

FRUITS OF ALL KINDS.

Large and small, do admirably. The award of the gold medal at Philadelphia was fully merited. The fruit grown here is not only of good size and perfect development, but of most excellent flavor. Apples, pears, cherries, plums, all do well, while strawberries, grapes and all kindred fruits develop splendidly. As a fruit-growing State, Kansas ranks among the first, and Jefferson county is one of the best counties in the State for fruit.

TIMBER AND WATER.

Timber is rather on the increase than otherwise. Oak, walnut, ash, hickory, elm, &c., abound, and in some places the soft maple. The county is well watered. The Kaw river is its western boundary line for twenty-miles. Grasshopper river runs through it from north to south; Slough, Walnut, Rock, Crooked, Mud, Cider, Muddy, Buck and many creeks run through different portions of its territory. Springs abound, and in digging for wells water can be reached at from fifteen to fifty feet, an average of about twenty to twenty-five feet. In most parts of the county the water is of excellent quality.

Indications of the presence of various ores are found. Except stone coal no minerals have been mined. Stone coal exists throughout all the county; it is found cropping out in various places, and is being mined to a considerable extent by the inhabitants. Specimens of iron, lead and copper have been found, and this would suffice to ransom a prince when princes were worth ransoming.

Upon the strength of this information a party of leading citizens was at once organized to investigate the matter. It was composed of some of the adventurers landed from their skiffs on President's Island. Placing his theodolite exactly in front of the venerable tree—and they said, from its appearance, have sheltered De Soto and his band—Captain B——— proceeded to lay out his first angle inclosed by the parchment lines. At the first corner of every one, the "distance" brought the party to a lonely grave on the shore of the river, known as a gulch, worn by the mad freaks of the storm in times gone by, were the remains of a boat of a fashion that no American has designed for the last half-century, an continent for more than two hundred years, although the same description of vessels still navigate the waters of the Nile, the Ganges, and are still built by the descendants of the same Spanish people who first brought to the knowledge of the world our Mississippi. The boat had been constructed from a single log, and was about forty feet long and ten feet wide. The wood had almost been transformed into coal by some strange atmospheric cause, and the truth of what we say can be seen by any one who will examine it, which was brought from the spot by our reporter, and is now in the possession of Captain Brown. From the ruined stern protruded an iron which had once secured the rudder, and which bore the initials "P. de S." Whether or not this is the remains of one of De Soto's boats it is impossible to determine with certainty, but the impression was decidedly of the opinion that the wood of which it was composed had been exposed to the action of the elements for more than two centuries.

The inference was irresistible. In the course of ten minutes the workmen had excavated a pit about three feet in diameter and two in depth.

Just at midnight, by Captain B—'s time, the spade of McGowan struck something metallic, and was proved to be an ancient helmet, the upper part of which was corroded and eaten away with the rust of years. Flashing as it had done in the days of battles of lance, sword and battle ax, it yielded to the first blow of the modern and homely spade. It was cleft in twain, and the light from the lantern flashed down upon its oxydized surface, from the interior was flashed back three wondrous rays of radiance, diamond pure sapphire blue and ruby red, so beautiful and dazzling, while gazing downwards the excitement was intense. What appeared to be gems of rare size and brilliancy, lying upon a faded and decayed orb of pasteboard, and the whole was the helmet-dress of a knight, who laid his lance in rest for the last time before any city on the North American continent had any existence.

THE French and Germans have maintained an exchange of civilities since the war, somewhat similar to that which for a time characterized the literary course between our Northern and Southern States. The French accuse their German adversaries of being barbarians, murderers and thieves—organize associations to refuse employment to German workmen, and contemptuously expel the German savans from their scientific societies, in which some of them held a corresponding membership. In their zeal they have in one instance at least expelled an unfortunate doctor who has been dead for twenty years, because "he had been guilty of many faults and blunders." Doubtless he had been detected taking unwarrantable liberties with the spiritual procedures to obtain information for the enemy. The Germans, on their part entertain themselves with exhilerating pictures of the degeneracy, moral, social and material decadence of France. In proof of this decline, the *German Correspondent* quotes with satisfaction an article from a French paper lamenting the increase of the men of 1870, as compared with those of 1848, and those of 1848 as compared with those of 1793. M. Thiers's superiority it is due to the fact that he is the survivor of two or three generations of politicians.

CONTROLLER'S REPORT.

Receipts and Expenditures for November.

The monthly statement furnished by Controller McGowan shows the receipts and expenditures of the city, for the past month, to have been as follows:

RECEIPTS.

Fifth avenue Market	$ 216 70
City taxes, 1871	5,839 76
Hatfield street, grading and paving	184 58
Blackberry alley, grading and paving	394 95
Union alley, grading and paving	142 43
Cedar alley, grading and paving	1,533 65
North street, grading and paving	218 02
Carpenter's alley, grading and paving	943 51
Muttenberger alley, grading and paving	59 56
Water rents of new buildings	199 00
Water rents and taxes of 1870	15,469 02
Water department	227 00
Lawrenceville burial ground	2 00
Vehicle licenses	32 25
Lot regulating	129 00
Rents for Neptune Hall	100 00
Water bonds sold (1871)	11,100 00
Building Inspector	375 00
Interest	850 98
Mayor's office	7,147 83
Monongahela wharf	454 83
Allegheny wharf	1,787 92
Weighing coal	71 55
Weigh scales	36 11
Sewers	1,173 37
Fifth ward Market	13 39
Diamond Market	3,504 98
Total	$50,273 35

EXPENDITURES.

Interest	$ 215 60
Salaries	2,466 45
Printing	500 00
Fire Department	8,399 43
Police	10,899 95
Water Works	5,797 56
Streets	6,199 95
Diamond market	606 36
Monongahela wharf	197 93
Allegheny wharf	168 83
Contingent fund	369 20
Board of Health	5,000 00
City Property	22 94
Fifth ward market	25 00
Roads	2,769 71
Surveys	808 18
Water extension	25,472 13
Water interest	15,120 00
Water bonds (sinking fund)	1,000 00
Fifth avenue Market	472 95
Street and sewer improvements	1,883 38
Total	$88,375 71
Balance in Treasury November 1	$165,807 59
Expenditures in November	88,375 71
Balance in Treasury December 1	$ 76,928 88

BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD COMPANY AND PITTSBURGH.

Mr. Garrett Refuses to Concede Anything—Probable Effect Upon our Business.

At a meeting of the Coke Manufacturers' Association, held on Saturday, the committee appointed to visit Baltimore to confer with the executive officers of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, (who are the owners of the Connellsville road), in reference to the excessive rates of freight proposed to be charged on coke—the main local interest on their road—reported that they had an interview with Mr. Garrett, President, and Mr. King, First Vice President, who insist on the advance to meet the interest on the debt due the city of Baltimore, and to equip the road; that the advance of about twenty-five per cent. to Pittsburgh, and forty-eight per cent. to Brinton, is required for these purposes, and *must be paid*. The officers are thoroughly determined in the matter for the local trade tributary to Pittsburgh or her manufacturing interests, and as far as they can, to enforce high freights from parties having their investments on the line of their road.

The committee reported to the completion and opening of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad to Cumberland we had no trouble or difficulty in securing a large supply of coke for our Western trade, at rates comparing favorably with the present rates for coke

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, December 16, 1871.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1871.

THE "profound sensation" said to have been produced in Madrid by Gen. GRANT'S reference to Cuba is suggestive. Spain has been profiting not a little by our forbearance, and affairs in the island have come to such a pass that this country should enter its strong protest. Its citizens have been outraged, and the present condition of the island is offensive to the civilized world, and growing worse. Spain is fully aware that we have great reason for complaining. Therefore even the mild passages in the Message on the subject made the Spaniards quake. It was determined at once to dispatch more troops to suppress the rebellion—a thing that has been done a dozen times before—and a general showing of teeth to the United States by the Spanish navy was inculcated. Of course hostilities are not to be courted; but this country must protect its citizens, resent insolence, and stand up for humanity,—and unless Spain alters her course, it may not be long before it will become necessary to put such a policy in execution.

PROF. AGASSIZ has, previous to the starting of the HASSLER expedition, of which he is to be the director, written a very able and interesting letter to Prof. PEIRCE, Superintendent of the Coast Survey at Washington, in which he prophecies what will be the results of the prosecution of the deep sea soundings, to make which the expedition has been organized. The learned Professor states his belief that there is a "correlation between the gradation of animals in the complication of their structure, their order of succession in geological times, their mode of development from the egg, and their geographical distribution upon the surface of the globe," and upon this basis prophecies exactly what, in his opinion, will be the class of animals discovered in the depths of mighty ocean. These predictions of AGASSIZ exhibit, in a marked manner, the progress which science has made in the past few years. It was considered, not long since, little less than a miracle that the scientist could take a thigh bone of a fossilized animal, and from it create a perfect model of the extinct creature. But even this is now placed in the shade, when a naturalist like AGASSIZ can so argue from the known to the unknown—so carry out the chain of nature, as to predict, with a genuine show of certainty, exactly what class of creatures will be discovered in the unexplored abysses of the sea. The scientific world will await with anxiety the report from the HASSLER expedition and the realization of the prophecies of Professor AGASSIZ.

IN an address last week delivered in Boston on the social condition of Great Britain, Mr. VIBBERT, a member of the Massachusetts Legislature, who has recently spent a number of months in England as a lecturer under the auspices of the United Kingdom Prohibitory Alliance, stated that during the last five years there had been spent in that country for alcoholic liquors, the enormous sum of one hundred and twelve millions sterling, or upwards of five hundred and fifty millions of dollars; and that in a single year grain enough is wasted by the brewers and distillers to give one hundred and seventy-four pound loaves of bread to every family in the country. Hardly less remarkable is the statement of Mr. VIBBERT that at the recent meeting of the Social Science Association, composed of the most educated, thoughtful and philanthropic persons in the Kingdom, seven different kinds of liquor were offered for sale in the refreshment room. Facts like these show that the crying evil of England is not monarchy, but drunkenness; the national need not a republic, but sobriety. "The gods are just; and of our pleasant vices make instruments to scourge us." Great Britain's woes are largely of her own brewing. Poverty, taxation, squalor, brutality and bloodthirstiness, are not to be gotten rid of by a change of political institutions, but by a reformation of personal habits; and this—whether the Prince of Wales lives or dies, whether a regency be established or a republic ensue—is the lesson which JOHN BULL has to learn.

A CURIOUS bit of personal history has recently been given to the public in the printed "Recollections" of General GEORGE SANDERSON, of Ohio, who died a few months ago. The General was a Soldier in the war of 1812, and was present at General HULL'S surrender of Detroit. For this act, it will be remembered, he was two years after tried by a court-martial and sentenced to be shot; the execution of the sentence, however, being remitted by the President in consideration of his age and revolutionary services. Since the death of General HULL, which occurred in 1825, a considerable modification of public opinion concerning this transaction has taken place; historians being generally agreed that the difficulties which surrounded him were so great as to explain his surrender without the imputation of either treason or cowardice. General ANDERSON accounts for it on the ground that HULL was an imbecile, caused by the excessive use of ardent spirits, and states that even on the day of capitulation he was deeply under the influence of liquor. This opinion exactly coincides with that of JOHN BROWN, of Harper's Ferry memory, who was also present at the surrender; a mere boy, it is true, but with the observation and insight of a man. He was at that time acting as a cattle drover in his father's employ, the latter having a contract to supply a certain number of beeves to the American volunteers. JOHN BROWN often, in conversation with his friends concerning his earlier experiences, mentioned the beastly state of intoxication in which he had more than once discovered General HULL, and he always believed that, had the American commander been a sober man, he might have extricated himself and re-established his communications with comparatively little difficulty.

MR. JOHN W. GARRETT'S RAILROAD.

The remarkable ideas of Mr. JOHN W. GARRETT about managing railroads continue to attract attention. It is known that on the line of the Baltimore and Ohio Road scarcely a manufacturing establishment of any considerable magnitude exists. His policy appears to be to crush out everything of the kind. Numerous instances of capitalists removing from that road to some other with a generous and enlightened policy might be cited. We can say to Baltimore without any fear of contradiction, that Mr. GARRETT'S policy, so far as it relates to trade between that city and Pittsburgh, is destructive to the last degree. Take the oil trade, on which Baltimore counted with considerable confidence, and reasonably, too. Shippers here stood ready, and were even anxious, to ship oil to Baltimore and build up a regular and valuable trade there. Mr. GARRETT opened the road, but where were the cars? To accommodate the oil trade from Pittsburgh, one hundred and fifty cars a day were needed. But Mr. GARRETT appears not to have thought of this, for there were few cars. Had there been cars the experience of the first ten days proved that the disorganized condition of the road would have driven shippers away. Speedy and certain transportation is required for oil. The vast capital involved will not admit of delay, whereas the delays on Mr. GARRETT'S road, to say nothing of the inevitable losses from collisions and breakages, would be absolutely ruinous. If the city of Baltimore experiences any disappointment concerning the oil trade, she may thank Mr. JOHN W. GARRETT. And these things are true in a very great degree of other branches of trade, concerning which Pittsburgh and Baltimore had mutual expectations. So inefficient has been the management of Mr. GARRETT that both Pittsburgh and Baltimore shippers have been compelled to order shipments away from this road to the rival route. We can state for a certainty that along this end of Mr. GARRETT'S road there has been a very general collapse of expectation. As an instance, not less than six furnaces were projected on one locality, all of which have been abandoned in consequence of Mr. JOHN W. GARRETT'S management of his road. All through the coal district capitalists have withdrawn from intended investments looking to immediate and extensive development, in consequence of Mr. JOHN W. GARRETT'S policy. Never in the history of railroads has there been so complete a failure to fulfil promises; no instance can be found of so much disappointment and ruin in so short a time.

These remarks are introductory merely to the paper, printed elsewhere, read to Mr. JOHN W. GARRETT by the Pittsburgh Committee at the interview in Baltimore last week. Not only here, but along the line of the Mr. GARRETT'S road, it will be read with interest.

A PROJECT is on foot in New York for the establishment of a large bank of discount and deposit, without circulation of notes, to supply money for the necessary wants of business at a lower rate of interest than that which rules at present. The principal features of the plan are as follows: The capital to be forty millions of dollars, with power to increase to one hundred millions; shares ten thousand dollars each, and none but citizens of the United States to be stockholders. No transactions to be had in foreign or domestic exchange, or the collection of money, outside of the city of New-York nor any dealing in securities other than those of the United States. No loans to be granted for a longer period than sixty days, nor loans on call, or on the bank stock, and no check to be certified unless the money is in bank. Any borrower to be permitted to pay his loan before maturity, less the unmatured interest. Every depositor to keep a permanent balance of not less than twenty thousand dollars, and no loans to be made except to those having accounts with the bank. The written particulars of every transaction to be open for the inspection of stockholders at all times. There are some other, but less noticeable original features in the plan, for an increase and usefulness of which the originators of the idea, themselves among the leading financiers of New York, are said to be sanguine.

SOME time ago Henri Rochefort was reported to have said that France was a dunghill, spouting imperial fungi everywhere; adding that he expected yet to suffer the greatest ignomy of his life in being pardoned under an empire for the offense of which he had been once convicted under a republic. Presumptive indications would seem to show that the first of these statements of the hot-blooded journalist has a considerable basis of truth, and the latter a strong air of probability. While it is next to impossible to separate the several threads of the tangled skein of plot and counter conspiracy which exists in that country, it is evident from the cable telegrams which reach us of the condition of affairs, that a crisis of the gravest character is imminent, and that the chances of the Emperor's restoration are brightening daily. Something of this is of course due to the activity of the Bonapartist adherents, who in a quiet way have been tireless in their master's cause ever since his dethronement, but much of it is unquestionably owing to the vanity, selfishness and obstinacy of M. Thiers himself, and the succession of mistakes upon which these characteristics have impelled him. The operation of either of these causes is sufficient to have produced mischief. Their joint action and effect may therefore be imagined.

AT the banquet which Boston gave to Alexis, he of course had to make a speech, and here is what he said:

Gentlemen—I thank you for the very kind manner in which you drank my health. I feel happy to be in the city of Boston, the cradle of the American nation. [Applause.] The child or the infant which lay in that cradle has very soon, in a very short time, become a grand youth which all the nations are regarding, and that every nation desires to have for its friend. [Applause.] The presence of those illustrious men whose words make the best and most glorious pages of American literature, shows that the mind of the grant is here. Gentlemen, a long cheer for the genius of Boston.

And the Duke led with a fine cheer, in which the company again joined heartily. During the Duke's brief speech the greatest interest was manifested, and all seemed delighted at having him speak with such remarkable freedom and ease.

THE anti-Grant party don't grow much, if we are to believe what sympathizing papers say. For instance the Boston *Post* prints the following from Washington:

"There is no concert of action among the elements of opposition to the Administration party. In fact, there is no well-defined movement in the Administration developed among Republican Senators and Representatives. The amount of threatened combat among the Republicans, and some mutterings heard from them against the Administration, but no one takes the initiative. The most pronounced hostility to General Grant, save, possibly, Senators Sumner and Schurz. It is known that several other Republican Senators, and some Republicans in the House, are opposed to his renomination, and they say they would gladly vote for some Republican in preference, but when called upon to give expression to their views they invariably dispose of it by saying, 'Wait until we see further.'"

UNDER the head of "a novel cure for consumption," the Indianapolis *Evening Journal* publishes the following: "A young man, only twenty-one years of age, with the disease of the lungs was told that if she would get a young puppy and raise it the dog would take the consumption off her hands, and she would get well. She did so, and as the dog grew it was noticed that the animal acquired a hacking cough, while the young lady grew rapidly better. In the meantime, however, she had become very much attached to her canine benefactor, and did everything that could be done for him. It was, then, the dog's constitution, the fell destroyer, had fastened upon pool Jack's vitals, and a few days since he passed in his checks. The young lady is in about health, and firmly believes that the dog saved her life."

ONE of the events of this week in Baltimore has been the arrival, per steamer Berlin, of four Roman Catholic missionaries, who come from England (Middlesex, near London) to take charge of the mission having in view the conversion of the colored heathen population, who are in a most benighted condition so far as the "Heathen Chinee." The Pope gave this mission to English clergymen because with England originates the movement. His Holiness no doubt thinks it a good chance to make to the colored people an *amende honor*. These missionaries are of families who occupy a position in England, and are young men of culture and refinement—and are certainly deserving of great credit and every wish for success in their arduous labors. The lead quarters will, we believe, be near St. Inigoes.

IN the early days of the London *Times* it was the custom, in announcing a marriage, to state the amount of the dowry—£20,000 or £30,000, whatever it might happen to be—and, in looking through the ladies' column one morning at breakfast, Mr. WALTER found one couple announced as "This noble lord has form a nice little pocket money for me, my dear," added Mrs. Walter, and her husband agreed to try the experiment. The advertisement duly appeared, and Mr. Walter, at his death, passed the prescriptive right of heir to her daughters. Under the new regime the right was repurchased by the present proprietor, it was assessed at £5,000 a year.

THE critic of the Indianapolis *Journal* gives the pianist Wehli the following appreciative notice: "No piece of furniture was ever so maltreated at the grand piano at the Metropolitan last night. Wehli seemed animated by the demon of destruction, and his demoniac rage gave him a strength that seemed supernatural and infernal. He pawed and he wrestled with the unoffending instrument, and reared up in his seat like a man in a strychnine spasm, until the tortured instrument, from pleading pathetically from the first, passed into heart-rending wails and agonized groans, up to the incoherent shrieks of delirium tremens. A Greek prigon of Hades, wreaking his vengeance on the unoffending instrument until his rage was satiated, he paused a moment, and then began with a will in his left hand."

SANDRINGHAM, where the Prince of Wales is lying ill, is in Norfolk, one of the eastern counties of England, about a hundred miles from London. The estate was purchased by the Prince soon after his marriage. Quiet and secluded, with plenty of game of every kind, and surrounded by loyal inhabitants, it is a delightful resort for retirement and pleasure. The Prince is lord of the manor and has the gift of the rectory in his own hands, which he recently bestowed upon one of his old and favorite tutors. The house is a splendid mansion, the Prince having laid out enormous sums upon it. It was here that royalty basked and enjoyed itself without having all its movements placarded in the papers.

NOTWITHSTANDING the frost-bound condition of Chicago, the work of rebuilding the city goes bravely on. The *Tribune* says: "When the broken bricks and mortar and ashes are frozen into a solid conglomerate, we undermine the mass with pickaxes or wedge it apart with crowbars, and carry it to the lake shore, even across the railway tracks, and tumble it on the ice-pack of the outer basin. We build ovens to heat our bricks in, so that the mortar may not be frozen in the wall before it sets. We run our hands and stamp our feet and wear coverings over our ears, so that we may lose none of the precious sunlight in these short December days. Nothing less than 14 degrees below zero can give us pause.

HERE are a few scraps of news respecting the Catholic conflict in Europe, and showing the progress of the Dollinger movement: The Swiss Council of State have suppressed all out-door religious ceremonies and processions. The people of Cologne, regarded as a pre-eminently Catholic city, have rejected the Ultramontane candidates for the town Council and returned Liberals, who will grant the Old-Catholics a church. The Archbishop of Munich, while banning parish priests in small Bavarian towns who refused to accept the decrees of the Vatican Council, has been withstood to the face by the offending parties and hooted by the people.

THE Chicago *Times* says: "In reviewing the character and condition of the dry goods trade during the week just closed, we hazard nothing in the statement that the movement in both domestic and foreign fabrics was larger than ever before witnessed at this season of the year. Our newly organized jobbing houses were largely patronized by buyers in person from all sections of the country. It is evident that the Council fires which under the older Indian nations through whose territory the railroads in process of construction pass, and establish uniform rates of fare and freight. He also advises the chartering of competing roads. This indicates that the Cherokees are not disposed to follow their brethren in resistance to the exactions of railroads, and are looking to the same legal means of protection.

IT has hitherto been feared that the cutting of a canal through the Isthmus of Darien would divert the currents of the gulf stream from the British Isles, and thereby turn those countries into arctic deserts. Dr. William Lampadius, a distinguished English scientist, has recently in an elaborate address, shown that the western coast of England is not dependent upon the Gulf Stream for its temperate climate, and that even if that current should be turned in another direction by a canal through the isthmus, no serious consequences would ensue.

HERE is a lesson never to be forgotten by insurance companies in America. It is announced by the Hartford *Courant* that the three insurance companies in that city which have survived the Chicago fire, and are still doing business, have received for premiums during the month of October, almost double the amount obtained in October, 1870, by all the insurance companies, then in number, then doing business in Hartford. In addition to which it is stated that the rates of premiums have been increased an average of 25 per cent.

IT is stated that Father McTierney, Secretary of Archbishop McCloskey, has been chosen to fill the new See lately erected in the State of New York. The three names of persons sent to Rome for this bishopric were rejected. It is probable that the newly appointed bishop will be consecrated coadjutor of another bishop, and another appointment for the See thus made the will be necessary.

A METHOD is said to have been lately devised, by which the old and refuse vulcanized rubber can be mixed with fresh, in certain proportions, so as to convert the whole into one homogeneous and useful mass.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Bishop Clarkson, of Nebraska, addressed a meeting in New York, on Sunday night, on the religious condition of the Indians. He said: "The Church has had great success in interesting the Indians in the missionary work; but it needs much assistance. In Nebraska there were, six years ago, about 50,000 people; now there are at least 250,000; but the Church has not grown in proportion. There are but three institutions for the education of youth; and what is needed is pecuniary aid, as well as sympathy, in order that the next generation shall not want for material to carry on the work. Much is expected of us, but I might as well try to deal out the North river with a teaspoon as try to do the missionary work I have to do with the aid now given me."

Governor Newton Booth, of California, in his inaugural address firmly advocated a reduction of fares on the Pacific Railroad. He also favors the repeal of the law permitting county subsidies of five per cent. to railroads; the admission of colored children to the public schools; Congressional action to restrain Chinese immigration, but giving the Chinese full protection against mob violence, and permitting them to testify in the courts.

Republican principles are making progress in England, especially in the large towns, in many of which republican clubs have been established.

A meeting was held at Dulwich near London, England, on the fifth ult., to arrange for the claims of women to educational endowments. Several prominent members of parliament and collegiate professors were present. The following resolution was adopted: "That this meeting is of opinion that the establishment in and around London of day schools for girls on the model of those already established in Edinburgh by the Merchant's Company, and with an equally moderate scale of fees, is urgently needed, and would be of great public advantage; and hopes that the Endowed Schools Commissioners and the Governors of Dulwich College will speedily take steps for the extension to girls of the benefits of the endowments of Dulwich College."

The chair which was occupied by Gen. Lee when he surrendered at Appomattox Court House, on Sunday the 9th of April, 1865, has been presented to the Hartford (Conn.) HistoricalSociety, by Captain O'Farrel of the 69th New York regiment.

What relation does an irate Teuton bear to the rest of the human family? Why, that of cussin' German, to be sure.

The Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania of the order of Knights of Pythias, will hold its session in Philadelphia on the 4th Tuesday of January next. During the present month the election of Grand Lodge officers for the ensuing year will take place in the subordinate lodges. If the rules of the order decree no candidate for any office receives a majority of the votes polled, the election takes place at the Grand Lodge session, when the representatives elect from the candidates balloted for in the subordinate lodges.

One thousand six hundred and one foreign registered letters went out on Monday in the steamer's mail from the New York postoffice. This is, by several hundred, the largest number ever forwarded on any day.

The ladies of Sorosis in New York celebrated the birthday of that society on Sunday, at Delmonico's, by a festive tea drinking. About two hundred male and female ladies were present.

The demand for new plays and playwrights has not hitherto been met with a corresponding supply. The tendency is to become more so, if we are decided, as may be judged from the following letter recently sent to a publishing firm. "I beg to inform you that I have written a new drama, consisting of pride, love, slavery, revenge, smuggling, marriage, fighting at sea, law suits, blowing up of a smuggling lugger, capture and death of the captain, triumph of justice, &c. It is thoroughly new and exciting, I wish to sell the copywright, hence my reason for troubling you. If you think you can, I will send you a part of it, as I have not it all finished yet, the spelling and grammar requires to be corrected and on that account I don't expect much for it. Please let me know by return if you put us such things." Manager Eliser should look up this unacted dramatist.

M. Devergie, a French chemist, finds that water containing only one four-thousandth of its weight of carbolic acid sufficed for the disinfectance of the "dead house" in Paris during the hottest weather, when it contained the bodies of 40 persons.

Hon. Dr. Wines, Corresponding Secretary of the American Prison Reform Association, is doing a good work in Europe relating to prison discipline. He has visited several countries on the continent, spreading the American ideas among philanthropic minds, and will more ingeniously advance the cause the European idea into his own. A convention to be held in London next June will crystalize these views into the best system.

Suit has been brought by a well known jeweller in Paris against the legal representatives of the Emperor Maximilian, for recovery of the value of jewels, plate and other decorations ordered by him. His representatives take the ground that the order was given by the monarch of a foreign state (i. e., the Mexican Emperor) and not by the Archduke Maximilian, whose agents alone they are. The court has taken time to consider its judgment.

The French Consul at Canton has lately obtained an indemnity for the Catholic chapels and other property destroyed in China during the recent disturbances. The amount paid to the native Christians who were compelled to take refuge at the Catholic mission at Canton will be able to go back to their district and rebuild their houses.

Wendell Phillips thus curtly replies to the free religionists who assert that Buddhism is equal to Christianity: "Let the answer be found in the past and present. The Asiatic civilization has failed from no lack of intellectual vigor or development. The force wanting was a spiritual one. Body and brain, without soul, have rotted away. From Confucius to Cicero there is light enough, but no life."

An effort will be made this winter to have Congress enact some sort of an international copyright law, unless it shall be considered that the best way to effect the object is by treaty.

One of the severest sufferers by the Chicago fire was the Hon. Isaac Cook, who has for years been a complete collection of the proceedings of Congress, and the debates from the organization of Congress to the present time; including ten large volumes of manuscript written by distinguished military and civil characters, during and after the war of the rebellion, embracing many from Lincoln, McClellan, Grant, Farragut, Sherman, Halleck, Seward, Sumner, Chase, Colfax, and others of great personal and historic interest. For the ten years Mr. Cook had been collecting the speeches, writings and letters of Lincoln for publication, and had many volumes of manuscript and letters, the material for a strictly biographical work upon Mr. Lincoln, several chapters of which were ready for publication. These were all destroyed by the fire.

Practical intercommunion between the American Episcopal and Greek Churches seems likely, in a certain degree, to be brought about through the Episcopal convention of Pennsylvania. A Greek prigon of Hades recently made application for the admission of his two daughters into St. Helen's Hall. The Greek Bishop was present at the late examinations in that institution, and the address of Bishop Morris, of Oregon, has been translated into Greek and published in the papers at Athens.

Dean Howson, of the English Episcopal Church, now in the United States, is of the opinion that the work of Christianizing the heathen must be largely done by Christian women. He finds in the practice that prevailed in the Church of the Apostles warrant for the admission of women to official position in the church.

The Hartford *Courant*, which hardly knows whether Columbus did a good thing or not when he discovered this country, moralizes thus upon the subject: "The Indians never thanked him, for one party. The Africans had small ground to be gratified for the market he had opened for them. There are two continents that have no use for him. He led Spain into a dance of great expectations, which ended in her gorgeous ruin. He introduced tobacco into Europe, and laid the foundations for more tracts and nervous diseases than the Romans had in a thousand years. He introduced the potato into Ireland, indirectly, and that caused such a rapid increase of population that the great famine was the result, and an immigration to America in New York. He started Tweed and Hall and the constituency of the Ring. Columbus is really responsible for New York."

An immense levee is to be constructed on the Mississippi river, commencing near Hannibal, Missouri, upon the Illinois side, and running to the point opposite the mouth of the Ohio river, and from the place of beginning—which enterprise, when completed, will reclaim for agricultural purposes over one hundred thousand acres of the richest bottom land almost useless by reason of the annual overflow of the Mississippi river. The land to be thus reclaimed is probably not worth, in its present condition, over 10 per acre, upon an average. But reclaimed and devoted to agricultural purposes, it will be almost impossible to overestimate its value, since its fertility is inexhaustible, and its productiveness almost unequalled by any tract of soil of equal extent upon the continent.

A breeding mare in Illinois the other day gave birth to twin colts, one a horse and the other a mule. The colts are lively and strong and seem fond of each other.

A political association, composed of returned soldiers and sailors, has been formed in Boston, and proposes to make its power felt in future elections.

The high price of lumber in Chicago and other cities has infused new life and energy into the lumber districts of the northwest. A vast number of heavy contracts have been made for getting out logs during the coming winter. The winter is setting in favorably, and large quantities of timber are being cut, large gangs of men and teams, are going to the woods.

Impecunious Pistol would have a hard time in opening his oyster, were he alive in England now. The prices charged for them are said to be five times as great now as eight or nine years ago. The beds have been dredged to death, and are fished out themselves. Formerly, the price was from sixpence to one shilling per dozen; now it is from half a crown to three shillings; though there is a large coarse oyster sold at fifteen pence per dozen.

A number of railroad companies are endeavoring to get a bill through the Illinois Legislature, forbidding the introduction of any more railroads into the city, except on petition of a majority of the owners of land fronting on that part of the street upon which it shall pass.

While the Japanese are so busily engaged just now in adopting Yankee notions—railroads, telegraphs and fractional currency—it is suggested that we might with profit adopt some of their customs. As, for instance, in Japan the ferrymen are held responsible for the safety of their passengers, and if one of these is drowned or injured for several hours, the women left their children and started to hunt them. This is all that is known, save that next day the bodies of those who had been dead had perished from the intense cold, were found. The children who were left in the wigwams were the only survivors of the party who had started to procure homes in the West.

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PERSONAL.

Mr. Otway, M. P. for Chatham, England, late Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Great Britain, has resigned his position. In a recent speech he said: He had felt bound to tender his resignation, because he felt he could not conscientiously defend the policy of the British Government on the occasion of the claims set up by Russia to abrogate that portion of the Treaty of Paris which related to the neutralization of the Black Sea.

Mrs. Myra Clark Gaines, after half a century's incessant legal warfare with varying success, met a crushing defeat the other day at New Orleans when the Court decided her an illegitimate child.

Considerable sensation was recently caused in literary circles by the publication of a letter from the divorced wife of Joaquin Miller, the somewhat famous author of "Songs of the Sierras," who, it will be recollected, failed to make for his family, consisting of his wife and three young children, the provision which he had promised. Mrs. Miller, who is said to be a beautiful and gifted woman, possessing marked literary and poetic ability, has now—we learn from an undoubted source—entered the lecture field for the purpose of supporting herself and her little ones. Paradoxical as it may sound, it appears that the similarity of tastes between herself and her liege lord was an element of incongruity. Mrs. Miller, it is believed, has strong aspirations toward a literary career, and it is said that some of her own poems are quite equal in merit to those which have lifted her husband into sudden fame. Her friends, it is understood, have it in contemplation to arrange for her an Eastern lecturing tour.

Madame Massena, who edits the *Magnolia*, at New Orleans, is said to be a creole.

J. W. Higginson is about to publish the life of his grandfather, Stephen Higginson, who it will be remembered was one of the thorns in the flesh of John Hancock.

Mrs. Smock, a daughter of the Revolutionary General Stark, now in her ninety-third year, lives near Waverly, Genesee county, New York.

It is rumored in England that a marriage between the daughter of Mr. Gladstone and a German gentleman, who was the tutor of the Princess Louise, has been arranged. It is denied that the Queen had much to do in making up the match.

One of the members of the household of Queen Victoria has written to Sir Charles Dilke, characterizing as a falsehood his recent statement, which we published the other day, that Her Majesty had paid no taxes, spite of her promise to Sir Robert Peel. The Queen has paid the income tax from the first imposition in 1842 up to the present time.

Mrs. Bullock, wife of ex-Governor Bullock, of Georgia, is said to have mysteriously disappeared. It wouldn't be very surprising should her husband follow her example, as he has often threatened.

Persons who claim to know state the mental malady of poor Matilda Heron was caused by the cruelty and brutality of her former husband, from whom she is now divorced. When he married her she was at the height of her fame, and had a handsome property. This, if report be true, he squandered, and even forced her to give up the last house and lot she owned by informing her that he, his mother and wife, and that if she refused to give him her final remnant of fortune he would publish the fact, and render their child legally illegitimate. Under such threats, it is said, she yielded, and since her separation she seems to have grown more and more deranged.

A Washington letter says: Thomas Nast, the most prolific and the best cartoonist and caricaturist we have had, because a man of thick-coming fancies as well as a patient worker, and with that hearty nature which is no longer concerned with work done, but keeps a free spirit for the next undertaking—this singular combination is said to have given the conceptions for overhauling the Civil Service, the lobby, the ecclesiastical place-grinding and stock gambling, if we can call that, which it is to be hoped, will not be realized by any over respectable or extradidactic adviser.

The subjoined epitaph over an ancient woman's grave, is copied from a tombstone in Brighton churchyard, which many American tourists have visited: "In memory of Phœbe Hersel, who was born at Stepney in the year 1712. She served for many years as a private soldier in the 5th regiment of foot in different parts of Europe, and in the year 1745 was under the command of the Duke of Cumberland, at the battle of Fontenoy, when she received a bayonet wound in her arm. Her long life, which commenced in the time of Queen Anne, extended to the reign of George IV., by whose munificence she received relief and support in her latter years. She died at Brighton, where she had long resided, December 12, 1821, aged 109 years."

Dr. Francis Hay, of Columbus, Ohio, celebrated his one hundred birthday last Friday. The doctor is a native of Bavaria, having been born in Warzburg, December 8, 1771. He was a student at that place and there acquired a thorough education. He came to America and practised his profession successfully in various parts of this country, and in 1861 went to Columbus, where he has resided ever since. His wife, to whom he was married sixty years ago, is now in her ninety-fifth year, is quite nimble and healthy, and bids fair yet to survive a number of years. The doctor himself is also quite hale and strong, for one so old. He is frequently seen upon the streets walking with a firm and steady step, and is quite active in his marriage as a man in the prime of life. He is perfectly able to help himself, and in the case of his person asks for no assistance from any one.

Crazy, as he is said to be, George Francis Train was more than a match for the Cincinnati *Enquirer* reporter who interviewed him on board the steamer bound for Queenstown. While the latter was quietly writing down the words of wisdom which fell from the lips of the eccentric traveler, Train suddenly sprang up, threw off his great coat, put his back to the stove, drew himself up to his full height as the bandage was tied over his eyes, and remained motionless. Meantime the other two prisoners approached their respective stakes, the sergeant with a less engaging but perfectly firm step. Mr. Ferns, with even a more defiant air than before, still smoking, and puffing large jets that formed a cloud around his head.

With a short, quick step he walked up to the stake, turning shortly around and boldly facing the shooting party. When the word was given, upon which the eyes of the other two were being bandaged, and the order to fire was quietly given, Train threw his hat carelessly upon the ground, drew himself up to his full height, which cannot be more than five feet six inches, and with folded arms faced the word. It was impossible for men to face death with more heroism than Rossel, or with greater effrontery and indifference than the other two. The courage which had up to this time been invested in my imagination with a very plentiful dash of horror, seemed in the presence of so much coolness to be robbed of half its terrors. When, indeed, the final word was given, and the fatal volley rang out, Ferns reeled from the three shooting parties, who had all advanced to within ten paces, I had almost ceased to realize the terrible nature of the tragedy which was passing before me. Rossel was shot by a party of the corps of engineers to which he belonged, and he received a true mercy. As the volley rang out, with a slight lapse of a second between the moment he was standing a strong living man and that in which his corpse was lying on the ground, there was a quiver.

It was only, however, with the other two. Bourgeois, who was in the middle, fell at once, but was found not dead, and a soldier, as is usual in such cases, put the muzzle of his rifle to his head, and the sharp ring seemed to curdle one's blood. Ferns, who was looking down the muzzles of the rifles which were to be aimed at him, seemed to throw himself to such a pitch that he remained standing motionless after the report had rung out. For two or three seconds he stood upright after the whole volley had been fired from the first rank. It was not until the second rank fired, one or two seconds later, that his knees slowly bent, and he sank gently to the ground. Even then his excellent pluck showed itself, which proved that in the opinion of the doctor life was not quite extinct, had to be given, and with a shudder of relief, as if I had awakened through some terrible nightmare, I hurried from the spot, leaving the army in the act of marching past the corpses.

The Volume of Trade in England.

A London letter to the New York *Financial Chronicle* says: "From all parts of the country advices are received respecting our trade are very satisfactory, and the amount of business in progress is very large. In fact, we are now carrying on the largest trade ever known. The Board of Trade returns for the month of September, and for the nine Oct. statement we learn that the declared value of our principal exports in the ten months ending October 31, was as much as £183,538,365, against £166,254,920 last year, and £159,162,432 in 1869. The figures showing the total value of each country employed for a period of only nine months, but these will form a large total for the year. The increase in Europe, France, £13,669,000 against £9,158,680; the United States, £26,340,000 against £20,960,000; Holland, Belgium, Spain, New Grenada, Peru and Brazil have also invested their purchases, and the trade with Canada has also increased from £5,325,197 in 1870, to £6,419,740 in 1871. Trade with nearly all the Australian colonies has increased, South Australia being the principal exception, and there has also been a considerable diminution in our Indian commerce. In fact, while there was an increase of £18,750,000 in the value of our exports to foreign countries, the shipments to our colonies and possessions have fallen off to the extent of nearly £3,000,000.

WHAT WAS IT?

How the Body of a Drowned Man was Recovered.

Last week a man fell into the river at Detroit, and was drowned. The next day attempts were made to find the body with grapnel hooks. While the men were thus engaged a buyer of junk stuff, named David Bepito, an Italian, who happened to pass up the docks, watched them for a while, and then asserted that he knew of something that would lead to the speedy recovery of the body. He proposed to get a loaf of baker's bread, put some quicksilver into one end, and seriously asserted that on being thrown into the water it would float to, and directly over the body and then stand still. He was hooted at, and told to go about his junk buying, not a man believing in the old woman's whim, as they termed it. Bepito went away, returned in a few hours, threw a loaf of bread into the water near where the man went off the dock, and in a moment called the attention of the crowd to the fact that the loaf was spinning around like a top. It went partly under the wharf, stood still for a moment, and then went half a block down stream, turning right and left, and, as vouched for by five different men, stood nearly directly over the body, when it was floating driftwood right by it. Very much excited, the Italian shouted to the searchers to drag over the spot. They were further guided by a hail from an hour before they passed over the spot, but when they did it hooked on the clothes of the drowned sailor, and he was hauled to the dock.

Terrible Tragedy—Seventeen Persons Frozen to Death.

[From the St. Joe Herald.]

Gentlemen who came in on the Kansas City, St. Joe and Council Bluffs Road, yesterday, inform us that a most horrible accident occurred on the line of that road, between Nebraska City and Plattsmouth. A party of immigrants with their families were passing through the county westward, when, the cold constantly increasing, they concluded to camp and light a fire. They were on a piece of high ground, and several wagons entered the timber in search of fuel. Not returning for several hours, the women left their children and started to hunt them. This is all that is known, save that next day the bodies of seventeen persons who had perished from the intense cold, were found. The children who were left in the wagons were the only survivors of the party who had started to procure homes in the West.

These are the meager particulars we have been enabled to glean of the sad affair. We are assured that they are strictly true. We shall probably learn the names of the unfortunate persons in a day or so.

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A BEECHER REMINISCENCE.

Speaking by the Card.

Speaking of ministerial knowledge of forbidden things, the Indianapolis *Journal* says that the unregenerate hearers of Henry Ward have often been surprised at his knowledge of certain matters about which a preacher is supposed to be blissfully ignorant. It says Mr. Beecher always makes it a point to familiarize himself with subjects which he is called upon to preach at, and adds that during his residence in that city he was once impelled to preach a sermon against gambling, and, in order that he might speak "by the card," he wanted to learn something of short cards, banking games, &c. Now, Henry Ward, with many educations, had been neglected in this particular, but he procured an introduction to Colonel Alvord, the present Lieutenant Governor of Iowa, a Democrat, State Committee. In his young days Col. Alvord had done a little in the way of shingle nail, seven-up, euchre, brag, forty-fives, and other games of chance. No amateur sportsman had a better conception of the value of three jacks than Col. Alvord, or gazed a closer game of seven-up. He could also read the tiger as near sewed as any other man living. Colonel Alvord readily consented to enlighten Mr. Beecher, and the two had frequent meetings in the back room of the Second National Bank, where he became theoretically proficient in the arts and tricks of cards. Having fully informed himself, he preached a powerful sermon, which created considerable excitement at the time, and gave rise to an unjust suspicion that Brother Beecher had at some period of his life, known how it was himself.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, December 16, 1871.

CAUGHT IN THE DARK.

Arrest of the Brownsville Murderer, Tilghman, at Steubenville. How He Was Captured—He Makes a Confession.

Some days ago we published an account of the shooting of the colored man Robert Collins, at Brownsville, by another colored man named Richard P. Tilghman, during the progress of a church festival on Thanksgiving evening. Immediately after the shooting Tilghman fled, but was arrested on Tuesday at Steubenville, Ohio. The *News* of that city, of yesterday, gives the following account of the capture of the murderer:

Tilghman came here first on Saturday, the second of December, under the assumed name of Charles Adams. He is very bright and intelligent in appearance, and on application, obtained employment as porter at the United States Hotel, in place of Louis Thomas, the colored mail, recently arrested on a charge of robbing the hotel safe. Tilghman had been at the United States but a few hours when a friend of Justice Love, residing at Brownsville, Pennsylvania, where the murders were committed, arrived here and registered at the hotel. He informed Justice Love of the matter. He said there were two or three Tilghman's in town, but it was his opinion that the porter at the United States, who pretended to be Charles Adams, was the guilty man. This suspicion was confirmed by the sudden disappearance of Adams. He had seen the Brownsville man's name on the register, and subsequently saw him in conversation with Love. He, as he says in his statement, then also saw Love in conversation with Mr. Mossgrove, landlord of the United States. He took fright at this and, without waiting for his pay or to make any explanation, immediately left the hotel. On going to the express office, the same evening, Justice Love discovered that a black oil cloth carpet sack had been received there from Brownsville, directed to Charles Adams. This satisfied the Justice that he was on the right track. The question now arose whether Tilghman *alias* Adams was still in the city. It could not be learned from the express company that any person answering to his description had taken the cars here, and the belief that he was secreted somewhere in town grew strong. Suspicion rested on Davis's boarding house and the search yesterday, as is known, showed its correctness.

THE ROOM—PARTICULARS OF THE AFFRAY.

The room where the affray occurred yesterday afternoon is a scantily-furnished apartment, uncarpeted and containing only a bed and some two or three broken chairs. Its dimensions are about twelve by fifteen feet. It has but one window, opening into an attic and darkened by two curtains. On the side opposite from the window, a door opens through a thin partition into a room occupied by Henry Jordan, a colored barber, and his wife. An examination of Tilghman's room developed the discovery of three bullet marks in the walls, and, close to the window and under the bed, was a pool of blood. Tilghman had been living here six days.

Further particulars of the shooting yesterday do not add much to the previous accounts. According to Tilghman's account given above, Collins, in shooting was to clear the room so he could make his escape through the window. The revolver he had, was a Smith & Wesson. Five barrels of it were emptied when it was picked up on the floor. As stated yesterday, Martin was the first to encounter him, and, though he was unarmed, he held like a hero to Tilghman while the latter was firing at him. After Martin obtained Tilghman's revolver, Tilghman retrieved another revolver, Tilghman retrieved another revolver, Tilghman retrieved another

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1871.

TERMS.

One copy, per year.....$2 00
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WILL NOT BE SATISFIED.

To good citizens, who love our free institutions it is not pleasant to hear of the contest which has for some time disturbed the Public School at Hunter's Point, Long Island. As the law under which the school exists requires the exercises of every day to be opened with the reading of a portion from the Holy Scriptures, an act very offensive to Roman Catholics, Mr. SIEBERG, the Principal of the School, in order, apparently, to make the proceeding as little objectionable to them as possible, has been in the habit of reading every morning the same passage, namely, the Lord's Prayer. This production, under the title of *Pater Noster*, is held in great honor among our Catholic friends, and, indeed, the mere repetition of it is believed by some of them to possess a supernatural and almost magical efficacy. The literary merits of the prayer, if we may thus speak without irreverence, are unquestionable. Dr. JOHNSON one day told BOSWELL that an Italian gentleman of eminence in literature had said to him, that in the Catholic Breviary there was a very beautiful composition called *Pater Noster*, of which he was anxious to ascertain the authorship. The anecdote gives us a hint of a possible reason why the prayer in question gives so much offense at Hunter's Point. Another reason is of course the King JAMES version of it there used, as Catholics do not hesitate to repeat the prayer in Rheimish English, in spite of the well known fact that the *original* Latin is essential to its entire potency. Acting under the instruction of their priest, Father CUMMINS, re-inforced by the advice of their parents, the Catholic boys and girls of Hunter's Point refused to allow the Lord's Prayer to be read in their presence, because it was read from the KING JAMES Bible instead of a Breviary, and began with the words Our Father instead of *Pater Noster*. Instead of quietly listening, or quietly shutting their ears and eyes, as they were at liberty to do, those young republican people for orthodoxy interrupted the reading with "the most violent, noisy and insulting opposition." Thirty-two of them were, therefore, suspended on last Monday from the privileges of the school.

It seems a pitiable story, when one thinks of the probably permanent effect upon the youthful mind, of the passions thus excited in the interest of ideas utterly effete and in every way antagonistic to the spirit and thought of our time and country. We do not refer at all to the strictly Christian doctrines of the Papal church. However defined or defended, they form parts of a great system which must be more or less adapted to the wants of the human heart, to which they make their appeal now as of old, and at any rate with them the secular journalist has nothing to do. When we speak of ideas effete and antagonistic to present thought and progress, we refer to those principles in virtue of which the Papacy is a wide-reaching political system, of which the great end is to fetter the minds and harass the bodies of mankind; in virtue of which it is a gigantic system of oppression. We may not pretend to feel any alarm for liberty in this country as the result of papal propagandism. On the contrary, we feel well assured that in the conflict with medieval Popery now going on among us, knowledge and liberal ideas will triumph. But there is certainly danger that the contest may last much longer and involve much more evil than there is any necessity for. At present everything seems to depend on the right adjustment of the school question. To the Ultramontanes who rule the Church, no feature of our liberal institutions is so odious as our free schools, and they are evidently determined to destroy the system. So long as the priests fail to get control of the education of the young, they feel that they have no hold upon the minds of the people. No concession, no compromise, will ever reconcile the Ultramontane priesthood of this country to a system under which all the children of the Republic are educated together without constant sacerdotal supervision. It is not single minded, intelligent Catholic laymen who refuse to be satisfied with such a compromise as gave rise to the trouble at Hunter's Point. It is the same class of functionaries, the clericals, who in Germany, Austria and Belgium pushed their claims to supreme control over education so far that in mere self defense the people rose in their disgust and indignation against such arrogance, and completely threw off their influence. The comments of the Catholic Press on such affairs as the trouble on Long Island are instructive, and might suffice, one should think, to enlighten those Protestant newspapers which manifest their ignorance while trying to manifest their charity by feeble appeals in favor of liberality towards "our Catholic brethren." Liberality is good, and we confidently believe that there would be no lack of it in the settlement of the school question, if there were some common ground, or reciprocally admitted principles, upon which the antagonists could come together. But in this case, there are no such principles, no such ground, because the two parties have diametrically opposite ends in view. The question is one which time only can settle, one element essential to agreement being the overthrow of the Ultramontane or Jesuit party which now rules the Catholic Church. Recent events in Europe warrant us in hoping that a defeat so much to be desired in the interest of humanity and progress, may not be very long postponed. In the meantime, it is the clear duty of Americans to stand by the schools as they are at present constituted.

MOST readers probably know that in Europe the subject of Woods and Forests is regarded as a matter for statesmanship to deal with. In this country, unfortunately, the people have hitherto been left not only without interference but without instruction or warning, to do with the forests and woods as they pleased. At length a manifest change of climate induced by the destruction of timber, and especially the destructive droughts, with other causes, have turned attention to the interest in a practical way. From a late number of the Cincinnati *Volksfreund*, it appears that in Wisconsin they are beginning to think earnestly about the policy of replanting the woods which have been destroyed. Dr. FRANZ HUERSCHMANN, a prominent citizen of Milwaukee, who is also a State Senator, has gathered facts enough in Germany and in America to enable him with good effect to introduce the subject of forest culture to the attention of the Wisconsin Legislature during its sessions this winter. The topic has already been pretty fully discussed in the newspapers, and public opinion is believed to be ready for action. Great forests still exist in Northern Wisconsin, but these will soon be destroyed, unless measures are soon be taken to save them. With the exception of certain naked prairies in the central and in the southern portions, the whole State twenty-five years ago was covered with splendid woods. In the thickly settled regions they have almost entirely disappeared. Where a few years ago trees were destroyed with a rage truly vandal, high prices, from ten to twelve dollars a cord, are now paid for fuel, a fact the more significant in a country destitute of coal like Wisconsin. But the worst effect is the decrease of the waters and the entire drying up of many springs, and the climate has also become ruder and more variable. Notwithstanding the large appropriations for school and other purposes, Wisconsin still has sufficient land for very extensive forest culture, destined in a few years to yield large profits. According to the *Volksfreund* writer, planted forests are more productive than natural ones; a statement quite credible, since by regularity and arrangement more trees can be placed on a given area. Trees thus planted are also more healthy, and yield better material for human use. The movement in Wisconsin is important, as the example is likely to be followed in other States.

THE probable impending death of the Prince of Wales excites considerable interest in commercial circles in this country. On Saturday a large number of the leading business men of New York sought interviews with the British Consul, and with Mr. HENRY CLEWS, the head of the authorized banking representative of the English government in the United States, to learn from them their opinions of the probable effect of the death of the Prince on the existing order of affairs in England. Mr. CLEWS, himself an Englishman, and personally in favor of Republican institutions, expresses the belief that his death would result in the immediate establishment of a Republic, which, he thinks, would be to the advantage of the people generally; since the moneyed classes have become almost insupportable in the haughtiness of their character and bearing. To their purse-proud behavior he attributes much of the bitterness and ill feeling which exist between the upper and lower ranks of society. He states as his belief that the formation of a republic would not create any perceptible reaction in affairs, but that, when the nine days excitement was over, business would continue as before, without any interruption whatever. The immediate effect of the death of the Prince upon the New York money market would of course be to send gold up considerably, while paper money would slightly decrease in value, but he holds that the event would in no wise disturb the political or commercial relations of the United States and Great Britain. On the contrary, he believes that the similarity of institutions which would then ensue would strengthen the bond of union already existing between the two countries. Per contra, the British Consul does not anticipate any change in the form of Government as the result of the Prince's death, except, possibly, the establishment of a regency; the government having, he states, taken ample precautionary measures in case of any misunderstanding between the people and their rulers.

THERE is no doubt that the general tendencies of the age are decidedly liberal, and that everywhere in monarchical countries the people are on the wax and royalty is on the wane. Nevertheless there seems no good reason to believe that, as so many journals of this country appear to think would be the case, the death of the Prince of Wales would create a sudden revolution of the British Government. Some temporary complications might possibly be produced, since the more reckless of the revolutionary agitators would unquestionably take advantage of that event to push their own schemes as far as possible toward consummation. It should, however, be remembered that the temper of the English people is very different from that of the French, and that the demise of the Prince would rally around the Queen all the conservative elements of the kingdom. We pointed out the other day that the attacks of Sir CHARLES DILKE on the Sovereign, had stimulated almost into frenzy the loyal feeling of the country; while that he himself is now conscious of the fact that he committed a grave mistake, may plainly be inferred from his answer (reported in yesterday's cable telegrams) to a deputation which presented him with an address—that he should suspend the further delivery of his lectures until he had consulted his constituents—a discreet mode of extricating himself from a very unpleasant position. In saying this we do not mean that opposition to the principle of hereditary monarchy is likely to die out. The glamour of royalty, the delusion of the divinity that doth hedge about a king, is gone never more to return, and if the young son of the Prince of Wales should live to ascend the throne, it will be under very different circumstances from those which attended the coronation of the present sovereign. In spite of this, however, and notwithstanding the fact that there is likely henceforth to be an avowed Republican party in the House of Commons, which will naturally grow with the future years, the system of monarchy itself will probably last for some time to come.

IF Congress did not persistently ignore many other questions of real importance, its persistent disregard of the urgent and repeated recommendation that the franking privilege be abolished might excite some surprise. We are glad that Postmaster General CRESWELL has renewed the recommendation in his last report. Based as the recommendation is on the experience of many years and a clear sense of the public good, Congress will be watched with more than usual vigilance by the country, for it is not difficult to perceive that more than usual interest is taken in the question. The original objects of the franking privilege have been monstrously perverted, and under the abuse of it thousands of tons of nearly every description of what is styled "mail matter," and which it was never intended should be sent free, are transported annually at public expense. At the last session the bill abolishing the privilege was set aside on some frivolous pretext. The reason why there is this disinclination to remedy the abuse is manifest. Congressmen are disinclined to part with that which is to them of great personal advantage, no matter what it costs the country. But public opinion is becoming concentrated, and it will take more than the average stupidity or contempt, whichever it is, even in that quarter, to much longer withstand the pressure. We entertain a pretty lively hope that the franking privilege will be swept away at the present session.

A VERY general and active revival in the temperance movement is in progress in different States; resulting almost invariably in the adoption of a line of policy having for its object the establishment in law of the prohibitory principle, instead of the system of license. What is termed the local option measure—the giving of the people of each community the right to decide by ballot whether the sale of liquors shall be permitted among them—is said to be the policy generally preferred. The New York Methodist Convention, at its recent session, expressed itself in favor of a Constitutional Amendment holding venders of liquors, as a beverage, and their property employed in the traffic, responsible for the evils arising therefrom, in accordance with the principle of the law now in force in Ohio. It is gratifying to observe that the opinion of the unwisdom of bringing the question into the arena of politics is on the increase. BARNUM, a life-long Temperance worker, and a shrewd observer, lately expressed the belief that the attempts of injudicious men to mix it with politics had very largely retarded the progress of the reform, and hindered the success of the objects which its advocates had in view—a conclusion, probably, pretty nearly correct.

IT is understood that application is about to be made to Congress for an appropriation for the help of those schools of the South which are engaged in the work of training colored teachers. The grounds for this request are that there are only about a hundred and fifty thousand colored people in the various day and night schools throughout the former Slave States, which, reckoning the average duration of their school life at two years, would give seventy-five thousand new pupils every year; whereas the natural increase of the colored people in those States is itself nearly or quite equal to this number, whence the mass of ignorance is not diminished. It is said that there are as many colored people to-day who cannot read as there were ten years ago, and that six hundred thousand colored voters will next year go to the polls and vote for President, who cannot spell out the printed ballots they cast. This is held to be neither safe for the country nor just to the negroes themselves; since, if facilities were afforded, their school attendance would be increased tenfold. The movement is the joint work of the Methodist Educational Convention, and of the Council of the Congregational Churches, and is to be pushed with vigor.

SCIENTIFIC men throughout the world will feel an interest in the result of the observations to be taken at various stations in Ceylon, India, Java and Australia, of the solar eclipse which occurs to-morrow. The British Government has sent out an expedition of ten scientific gentlemen, who are supplied with instruments of great power and delicacy, while a number of French and Italian *savants* have also, under the auspices of their respective Governments, taken steps to witness the phenomenon. The eclipse will not be visible in this quarter of the world, the line of totality commencing in the Indian Ocean, on the coast of Hindostan, thence passing in a great circle over Sumatra, Java, New Guinea, through the islands of the Pacific, and terminating on the equator in mid ocean. The telegraph will communicate the main results of the observations to Europe and this country within a few days after they have been taken, and should the weather prove favorable at the period of the eclipse, we shall be likely to obtain a good deal of interesting information regarding a variety solar questions which are now more or less in dispute.

THE reference in Gen. GRANT'S message to the pernicious practice which has grown up at Washington of making appointments on the "indorsement" of individuals who have favorites to pay off—notably members of Congress—is a sharp and distinct recognition of an evil on which we have frequently commented. His utter detestation of the practice and those who abuse it could not be more emphatically expressed, and his language, though forcible enough to be remembered on the first reading, may be repeated. It is as follows:

"In mercantile pursuits, the business man who gives a letter of recommendation to a friend to enable him to obtain credit from a stranger is regarded as morally responsible for the integrity of his friend and his ability to meet his obligations. A reformatory law which would enforce the principle against all indorsers of persons for public places would insure great caution in making recommendations. A salutary lesson has been taught the careless and the dishonest in the great number of prosecutions and convictions of the last two years."

This would be a good way to deal with outside signers, but we think for members of Congress, expulsion would be the most appropriate punishment. That Gen. GRANT is thoroughly convinced that "indorsers" of every sort, who deceive the Government and defraud the service, should be punished at least as severely as those who do similar things "in the mercantile world," is certain. "Indorsers" had better begin to consider their ways, for at the very least the President has it in his power to reject the indorsement of those who have deceived him, —and he knows them.

IT is well understood in Washington that Gen. GRANT made no objection to the restoration of Mr. SUMNER to the Chairmanship of the Committee on Foreign Relations, but Mr. FISH did. And it is also well understood that Mr. CAMERON was so well pleased with his position that he was unwilling to relinquish it. So no change was made, and little is openly said about it. Nevertheless clear sighted men in administration quarters, in Washington, are not exactly satisfied. They are of the opinion that the restoration of Mr. SUMNER would have been the wiser course, and regret that Mr. FISH and Mr. CAMERON interposed objections, whether from punctilio or personal vanity. The truth of the saying that it is easier to make than retrieve a blunder receives another illustration.

A BERLIN letter from an intelligent source says it is impossible to conceal the apprehension that a French *coup d' etat* of some kind may upset things in a financial sense at any moment. THIERS is regarded with distrust, if for no other reason on account of his great age. No extreme or contradiction in his course need excite surprise. To this cause, no doubt, not a small part of the peculiarities and inconsistencies which, with all his vigor and statesmanship, have of late characterized him, is to be assigned. It is not to be disguised that French affairs are exciting a peculiar interest at the principal capitals, where the general belief appears to be that great changes, even the landing of the fugitive Emperor on French soil, should create no surprise.

THE Boston *Advertiser* makes a mistake when it says that "Pennsylvania is always wanting a Cabinet Minister to strengthen the party." The remark may be measurably true of a limited number of individuals, but not of "the party," as the elections have shown. What "the party" in Pennsylvania is "always wanting" is a proper recognition of the demonstrated fact that her support is very important to the success of "the party"—a fact which is sufficiently suggestive of the policy which should govern the dispensation of patronage, if that is conceived to have anything to do with party success.

THE "passive policy" is losing ground among the Democrats. The *World* has pronounced against it, and some who at first favored it have taken a sober second thought and now express a preference for being killed to committing suicide. About the certainty of death, politically, there is no difference of opinion, the question being only as to the manner. The melancholy privilege is freely accorded.

THE income tax law expires by its own limitation on the 31st of next month, and members of the Committee of Ways and Means express the opinion that no attempt will be made to revive it. The collection of the two and a half per cent tax on incomes above $2,000 in 1871 will be in March next, and with that, it is probable the last of the hateful inquisition will be seen.

SENATOR NORTON is said to have become a convert to the policy of General Amnesty, as recommended by the President. From this it is argued that the bill which has been pending ever so long in the Senate will be taken up and passed speedily after the holidays. Another proof of the power of public opinion.

Petroleum as Fuel.

The day when petroleum will be used as a fuel for locomotives appears to be at hand. An experiment recently made at West Philadelphia was productive of results which have the outlook of practicability and economy. Fire started at 11 o'clock; oil placed in the generator 11:08, steam let into the cylinder 11:21, with a pressure of ten pounds, rising to eighty at 11:43 and one hundred at 11:46. The amount of oil at starting was thirty-six gallons, ten of which were consumed in raising the steam to one hundred pounds. Experiments were continued more than two hours, leaving three and a half gallons. In this case there was manifest quite a saving over coal, and steam raised much quicker. Further experiments are to be made soon on a larger scale. If successful we see no reason why petroleum cannot be used for stationary boilers as well. Coal is becoming expensive, as there is now a loss of more than fifty per cent. in its use, or a substitute must be found. The utilization of heat, as developed in the combustion of coal for all purposes, is now a puzzling problem, and is daily coming home to all consumers. Our cooking stoves are as wasteful of heat as steam boilers, and some invention must soon come in to stop such a waste.

DR. HALL does not approve of the old-fashioned doctrine which was formerly instilled into the minds of children—that they should spring out of bed the instant they awoke in the morning. He says that "up to eighteen years every child should be *allowed* ten hours' sleep, but time should be allowed to rest in bed, after the sleep is over, until they feel as if they had rather get up than not. It is a very great and mischievous mistake for persons, old or young —especially children and feeble or sedentary persons to bounce out of bed the moment they wake up; all our instincts shrink from it, and nerves kick against it. Fifteen or twenty minutes spent in gradually waking up, after the eyes are open, and in turning over and stretching the limbs, do as much good as sound sleep, because these operations set the blood in motion by degrees, leading to equalize the circulation; for, during sleep, the blood tends to stagnation, the heart beats feebly and slow; and to shock the system by bouncing up in an instant and sending the blood in overwhelming quantities to the heart, causing it to assume a gallop, when the instant before it was in a creep, is the greatest absurdity. This instantaneous bouncing out of the bed as soon as the eyes are opened will be followed by weariness long before noon."

CONSIDERABLE newspaper discussion having recently taken place in England concerning the relative cheapness of Australian preserved meat and English butcher's meat, a curious calculator has made the matter the subject of investigation, the results of which are quite interesting to our own housekeepers. Wishing to know exactly what was the loss in cooking and what the proportion of bone in an ordinary joint, he had a leg of mutton weighed as it came from the butcher's, weighed again when roasted fit for the table, and then had the meat accurately pared off, and it and the bone weighed separately, with the following results: Leg of mutton before roasting, 9 pounds 10 ounces; ditto after roasting, 6 pounds 12 ounces; weight of cooked meat, 4 pounds 13 ounces; bones, 1 pound 15 ounces; gravy, 10 ounces. So that cooked joints appear to "pan out" in a ratio of only about fifty per cent., this doubtless the actual cost of the meat we purchase, dear as the original price itself is.

LAST Sunday Henry Ward Beecher preached a sermon on Spiritualism, in which he expressed himself so clearly as apparently to leave no doubt of the fact that he indorsed it in the most unreserved and unequivocal manner. The press of New York and the country having commented somewhat extensively on his views, Mr. Beecher has written a letter to the *Tribune*, explaining that he did not discuss "spiritualism" as the term is now understood. While he looks with profound interest upon all wise efforts to educe the scientific truth from that extraordinary class of phenomena which have been seen so common in our day, and to which, at length—in England at least—the attention of men of the highest scientific attainment has been seriously turned, he has never yet been convinced that these remarkable modern phenomena originated from the interposition of spirits outside of the human body.

THE announcement sometime ago said to have been made by George Wilkes, that he proposed to take the initiative in a movement against the renomination of President Grant, or, failing in this, prepare the way for his defeat after nomination, occasioned considerable comment at the time. His arrival in Washington, therefore, and his frank avowal of the business which has taken him thither, is the subject of marked notice among the professional politicians. During the session of Congress on Wednesday he was at the Capitol, and most of the time was on the floor of the Senate. Subsequently he received a large number of callers at his rooms, and is said to be engaged until midnight in explaining to those who called the plan of operation marked out for the organization of an anti-Grant party. Wonderful Mr. Wilkes!

THE Pittsburgh *Morning Mail* made its appearance Monday morning reduced in size and price, one cent a copy being the rate at which it will be published in the future. A paper in which the news is well collected and "city matters" carefully dished up, and so cheaply, ought to obtain a large circulation and prosper. If it does not it will be because the publishers are not energetic and determined.

A National Exchequer.

A correspondent of the St. Louis *Republican* furnishes that paper with the outlines of a plan for the establishment of a National Exchequer Bank, which, he states, is now being canvassed, and will be brought before the present Congress for a charter of incorporation. The capital stock is placed at a hundred millions of dollars, in shares of a thousand each, five of which are to qualify owners for eligibility to directorship. The charter is to be perpetual; branches are to be established in all the principal cities of the Union; subscriptions to the stock to be paid one-fourth in gold and three-fourths in United States bonds, while if the whole capital be not subscribed by individuals, then any national bank in its corporate capacity as now existing may subscribe upon the same terms and be merged into the corporation; ceasing, however, to transact business as previously, while the owners of shares in national banks thus absorbed are to receive shares in the Exchequer in lieu of the same. The corporation is to be divided into two departments; one for the transaction of banking business, with power to discount notes, bills of exchange, &c., authority being given to loan one-tenth of the capital stock on the pledge stock, but no loan to be over six months date; the other department to be an issue department, presided over by three commissioners, one of whom is to be appointed by the United States, and who are to have power to issue notes to the banking department, the deposit of one-fourth gold and three-fourth bonds of the United States, until the issues reach the sum of two hundred millions of dollars. Transfers between the branches and the principal are to be made at an exchange of one-tenth of one per cent., while a commission of one-fourth of one per cent. is to be charged for the negotiation of loans for States and corporations; the exchequer to pay the United States one-fourth of one per cent. bonds out of all dividends after the year 1876, in liquidation of its capital to that of the United States. The purpose seems to be the consolidation of the floating capital and bonds of the country into a single combination. Whether, however, the plan would in its workings turn out to be an improvement on our present legal tender system of exchange, or whether the scheme itself will receive the sanction of Congress, remains to be seen.

EVERYBODY, of course, is aware of the fact that Music is a heaven-descended maid, for the poets have told us so times out of number, or rather innumerable times, since the poets are invariably supposed to be always in number. Shakspeare, too, who generally had a pretty accurate knowledge of what he was talking about, characterizes music as "the food of love," and we have all heard and read of the enchanting marvels wrought by Apollo's lute, and by Orpheus's lyre, as when it "drew iron tears down Pluto's cheek." And now comes Mr. WILLIAMSON, the modern queen of song, with further proof of the miraculous raptnesses and transformations which the divine gift is capable of effecting. A German resident of New York, on whose too susceptible heart the wonderful notes of the Swedish *cantatrice* had fallen like fire on flax, kindling all his being into an inspired blaze, has, it appears, for months past followed the lady from city to city, and finally betaken himself into her privacy, and even gone so far as to be guilty of the impassioned rudeness of snatching a number of kisses from her vermeil tinctured lips. A day or two ago the poor fellow forcibly effected an entrance into her room at the hotel, and again attempted to taste those nectared sweets, when, at the instance of her friends, in order to avoid a continuance of the annoyance, she was induced to have him arrested. During the examination which took place before the Justice of the Peace, the prisoner rushed from the custody of the officer having him in charge, and frantically kissed the cloak of the songstress, which, situated as he was, could only be reached by mounting on a table. The poor fellow was then sentenced to imprisonment for six months, he expressed his fixed determination to marry her immediately on his release.

"The music in his heart he bore,
Long after it was heard no more."

Says high-priest Worthington, in his inimitable immortal way; and it is consoling to reflect that this "aged man and poor," who has been witched into madness by melody's golden tongue, will from his very infirmity be privileged beyond the common walk, peopling the world around him, and in his imagination holding commerce with the skies.

A RECENTLY published English parliamentary paper, giving the expense chargeable to the mother country for the maintenance of the various colonies and dependencies of the Crown, shows that the total expenditure of the Crown, during 1870, was £1,693,300, which represents the expense of the British North American possessions, nearly the whole went to the Dominion of Canada. It further appears that while the annual expense of the military and naval stations has in ten years decreased £179,000, while the Australian settlements show a decrease of £20,000, and while the other colonies, exclusive of the North American possessions, show a net decrease of £9,000, the latter country on the other side of the scale with an increase of £264,314. Still further it is to be remarked that it is due to British Columbia and Prince Edward Island that the increase was not over £700,000, the Dominion of Canada alone having contributed to the aggregate increase in all the other foreign stations of the British government. It is certainly kind in the mother country to look out for her great lubberly son so well; but what shall be thought of the big bantling for the two persons, and unfortunately not to pet him in this expensive way, while thousands of her children at home do not know where to find bread? Cut loose, O loading Canada; and find "dominion" over yourself by striking out bravely for yourself and earning your own living.

PHILADELPHIA is perplexed because of the number of her heroes. During the recent visit to that city of the Grand Duke of Russia, the horses attached to one of the carriages in the official cortege became frightened and ran away, when, say the journals, "a man dashed out from the crowd, and with the rapidity of lightning grasped the reins of the frantic steeds, bringing them to a sudden stand still, while the occupants of the carriage scrambled out." On learning the facts in the case the Prince entrusted the sum of twenty-five dollars to the Mayor of the city, to be given to the man for his handsome conduct, but now comes the difficulty. One man did the work, but five men have already put in claims for the money, while other applicants will probably follow. The Mayor is greatly puzzled to decide who is the individual entitled to the much coveted cash, and it is evident that no one should it eventually turn out that the true hero is not among any of the applicants. Courage is almost always accompanied with modesty; and in this case the brave man probably stands yet in the background. Let the Mayor inquire whether he really be not the Jenkins who immortalized the Duke's feet and fingers; or that other noble fellow who refused to sell a ball ticket to a citizen by reason of his unfashionable color.

THE exciting Bible war in the suburb of Hunter's point, New York, was on Saturday ended to the satisfaction of all concerned. The arrangement was made between the committee appointed by the Catholics and the commissioners. All the expelled scholars are to be received back into the school, and in future the Catholics will not oppose the reading of the Scriptures, or the singing of other religious exercises. On the part of the Board of Education they agree to allow the children of Catholic parents to remain in the class-rooms during chapel exercises. The adjustment seems to have relieved every one concerned with the affair, and both sides claim a victory, the Protestants in the fact that the Bible is read in school, the Catholics that they are not compelled to listen to the reading of it.

THE Legislature of Illinois has gone heavily into the reform business during its present session. One of the bills recently introduced is a decided curiosity. It relates to "injuries of persons," and provides not only for the liability of corporations, but declares that every person shall be responsible to any servant or employee in his or her employ for death or injury resulting from negligence of any other servant or employee to the same extent and in the same manner as if the person injured or killed had not been in the service or employ of such person or corporation. Should this measure become a law the people of Illinois will probably find the maintenance of domestic establishments considerably more dangerous and expensive than they had looked for.

"A good name is better than riches." A shrewd but unprincipled business chap lately attended the sale of a hotel in Ohio. He hadn't a cent in his pocket, but he stood up and bid boldly, "Twenty-eight thousand dollars." It was knocked down to him; and, when the question was asked, "Who is the purchaser?" this audacious scamp replied, "The Pennsylvania Railroad." Of course, he was not required to pay up the money from an empty purse, a liberal lubber like that, whereby he was able, in the course of a couple of days, to sell the whole to another party for $25,000, and clear the difference. The country is now safe from the sly old scamps buying hotels for the Pennsylvania Railroad.

IN a late issue the Illinois *Staats Zeitung* gives some interesting particulars respecting the manner in which Israelitish members by the fire have been relieved by members of their own faith. It is estimated that Jewish business men there lost not less than twenty millions of dollars, but immediately after the catastrophe they went to work in a systematic way to provide relief for those of their brethren who had been completely ruined. The result is, it seems, that though there are fifteen thousand Jews in Chicago, not one of them is seen to apply for aid to any of the general or special relief committees of the Gentiles.

A CONNECTICUT lady, who is spoken of as "estimable," has sent to the Duke Alexis a "work of art" which she has an idea ought to interest him, the same being nothing less than a "large frame full of toe-nails," the like of which does not exist in the world. She ought to have come along herself and exhibited to his Highness the toes whereon the nails grew. It is suggested that the lady is quite as reasonable in her views on hospitality as are those which many persons are putting in practice their attentions to the Duke.

"Some one," says the Washington *Republican*, "has fastened a pretty fair criticism upon the California poet, Joaquin Miller, who, in his 'Kit Carson's Ride,' makes that hero dash away on a 'bareback horse,' and afterward 'rise in his stirrups.'" The criticism is not fair at all, and the worm hospitality as due to its evidently a fool. The chief beauty of the poem is that the poet leaves to the imagination of the reader the fact that Carson stopped at the first house he came to and borrowed a saddle.

THE distribution of the forty-five chairmanships of standing committees in the Houses of Representatives, by States, is as follows: Maine, three; Vermont, one; Massachusetts, five; Connecticut, two; New York, two; New Jersey, two; Pennsylvania, five; Ohio, five; Indiana, three; Illinois, three; Michigan, three; Wisconsin, one; Iowa, one; Nebraska, one; Missouri, one; West Virginia, one; North Carolina, one; South Carolina, one; Mississippi, two; Alabama, one; and Louisiana, one.

THE Italian opera at the Philadelphia Academy of Music, which was announced for this week, has been postponed, whereon the *Bulletin* remarks:

The subscriptions came in slowly, and it became quite certain that the "season" would not be financially successful. Then the name of Miss NILSSON, to hear whom in a concert people were willing to pay four or five dollars a year or more ago, now fails to make an Italian opera attractive in much less price. The out-look is a very bad one, and if the Academy cannot get up a good Italian company or its own, it had better try and secure an engagement with an opera bouffe company, or give up its claim to be considered an opera house.

Let the manager try in Pittsburgh—he may do better.

Will the St. Louis *Republican* be pleased to explain how it comes about that it is so exceedingly anxious that no National Democratic Convention be held at all, and also that it be held in St. Louis? Has that journal discovered the latest dodge for nominations?

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

A curious but terrible disease, called meningitis, or inflammation of the membrane of the brain or spinal cord, has broken out at Tehuacana, in Limestone county, Texas. Out of ten cases in the last few days, nine had proved fatal in less than thirteen hours. The Tehuacana University has been suspended until the first of January, and the people of the town were fleeing to other parts of the county and State.

The authorship of the phrase "masterly inactivity," has recently been made the subject of investigation in England. It has been discovered that these words were first used by Sir James Mackintosh, in 1791, in his defense of the French Revolution, contained in his work entitled "Vendicine Gallicæ." This phrase was also used with great effect by John C. Calhoun, when Secretary of State, in 1845, in reference to the annexation of Texas, and has sometimes been considered as original with him.

The Bureau of engraving and printing is preparing a large number of specimen revenue stamps to be taken to Japan by ex-Deputy Commissioner Williams, who goes to Japan in a few days to inaugurate a revenue system there.

Norfolk, Va., boasts of an African who is gradually changing into a white man. Both of his parents were full-blooded Africans, and the child was as black as could be until his eighth year, when white spots appeared upon various parts of his body. These spread gradually, and at the age of eighteen his entire person, with the exception of the hands and face, became perfectly white. At the present time his face is undergoing the transformation, and the alternate black and white give him an exceedingly picturesque appearance. He rejoices in the name of the "Spotted Negro," which bids fair to be changed in a few years to that of the white negro.

The city of Memphis has a girl so full of needles that if a crank were attached she would make a capital sewing machine. The rate of speed with which they travel from one part of her body to another is wonderful. At night she felt them in her cheek, and at 5 o'clock the next morning they were in her arm. A bountiful application of liniment brought out three steel points upon her arm, and with the aid of pincers three needles were extracted. The rubbing was keep up with unabated, zeal, and six more needles came to the surface. This exhausted the supply, for, despite the most prodigious use of liniment, not another needle would appear.

In the Superior Criminal Court in Boston the other day a noted individual named Spencer Peites was on trial for forgery, and a witness was produced to prove an *alibi*, who swore that the prisoner was in New York on a certain day, January 27, 1866, and produced a diary in confirmation of the statement, testifying that the entries relating to the affair were made at the time. The diary being examined by the District Attorney and the Court, it was found that it bore the printed date of 1869. It was not considered necessary to cross-examine that witness.

What a shoddy world is this in which we live. It has certainly been ascertained that ordinary leather is largely sold as alligator leather, being stamped to resemble the skin of that animal; and now an indignant gentleman writes a newspaper that a favorite parrot, noticing what had happened, cried out, "fire, fire, fire," so fearful that the family were aroused and extinguished the flames.

About a year and a half ago the pastor of a Baptist Church in a country town in Michigan, fell senseless and apparently lifeless to the floor in his room, and for fifteen hours was supposed to be dead. He finally came to, and in two months thereafter his hair changed from a glossy black to a silver gray. His eyelashes and eyebrows also turned white, and in a short time dropped off. What is stranger still, the hair, eyelashes and eyebrows have since grown out again in their original color. The hair commenced to grow black on one side of his head, gradually passing over until there is now but a small patch of gray left.

Preparations of the most extensive character are making for starting the experiment of cotton growing on the Pacific slope. A company, composed of Californians and Englishmen have decided upon the Kern river valley as the seat of their operations, and purchased ten thousand acres of land upon which to test the plan. One thousand acres will be planted in the spring, and the rest from time to time, as experience shall show economical. With the tract is purchased a canal, that, it is said, will serve to irrigate the entire area to be put in cultivation. The results of the experiment will be looked for with considerable interest.

The disasters on the lake this season have been remarkable. They have destroyed twenty thousand eight hundred and eighty-two tons of shipping; amounting to one and a half million of dollars. Were these vessels placed in line they, at the usual distance from each other of vessels in tow, would form a procession nearly six miles long.

A whale was lately captured in the vicinity of Boston, Mass., and is now moored to a wharf there, being visited daily by crowds of curious persons, who pay 25 cents a head. The monster is about 80 feet long, girts about 60 feet, his jaw is about 15 feet long and it is estimated that he will yield about 100 barrels of oil and 2,000 pounds of bone.

It is said that the underwriters of Bedford, Mass., propose sending a powerful steamer to the Arctic Ocean, to be on hand next season to rescue some of the abandoned ships, if such a thing is possible.

The Salem (Mass.) *Register* says that a few days ago a whale got afoul of the anchor of a fishing schooner on the Grand Banks, and drove on shore with her at a speed of five knots an hour. The crew weather-bitted the cable, and in a short time the whale sounded, broke the anchor, and carried away with him a good part of it.

The chief of the Winnebago tribe of Indians have made application to be permitted to visit Washington at the public expense, after the manner of Red Cloud and Spotted Tail several months since, to secure certain favors and advantages to their tribe. Among other things, they wish to secure the patents for the eighty acres of land which the Government promises to each head of an Indian family who will occupy and till it, and also to expend in the erection of permanent buildings and improvements $100,000 of the fund appropriated for their removal to their new reservation.

Congress will be urged to pass at the present session a bill requiring postmasters to fulfill the duties of pension agents. The plan has been advocated for years, but has always been stubbornly resisted by an influential lobby.

In a lecture on "Rings and Lobbyists," delivered in New York the other day, Gov. Hawley, of Connecticut, stated that he knew of his own knowledge that a gentleman who is at present a member of the United States Senate, paid $5,000 for his election.

Governor Hoffman has furnished to the Law Institute of Chicago a complete set of the Session Laws and Revised Statutes of New York, together with the State Reports from the beginning, the Digests, and the last edition of Kent's Commentaries.

A scientific writer in the London *Spectator*, speaking of our great fires, says: "When the truth is known about those fires in America, it will be found that they resulted from the passage of a great mysterious atmospheric steam, which arose in longitude 62 degrees, swept with a cyclone Antigua and the Virgin Isles on the 21st of August, the Bahamas on the 23d, and then moved slowly to the northwest, striking Chicago and the forests."

The Committee of Education and Labor in the House of Representatives has been directed to inquire into the expediency of establishing a labor bureau in connection with the department of agriculture, in recognition of the rights of the laboring classes.

The Austrian government has addressed a communication to the Government of the United States, relating to the International Exposition of Agriculture, Industry, and Fine Arts to be held at Vienna in 1873, and asking it to cooperate with that nation in the matter, and appoint a commission, as it did for the Exhibition at London and Paris, for the purpose of making arrangements for the participation of its citizens at the Vienna Fair.

The French manufacturers are suffering for their precipitancy. In the heat of the war they declared they would never execute orders for Germans. Latterly they have, as usual, sent for them as travellers, for and when they do not publish his literary remains for thirty years after his death, expired some time since. But for various reasons, political in the main, the publication has been retarded.

There was a grand semi-annual flagellation at Newcastle, Delaware, the State of judicial flogging, a few days ago. One man was flogged for the third time, and said that, having all the manhood flogged out of him "he didn't care for anything." Eight others were punished with twenty lashes each, and several in addition stood for an hour in the pillory. The offense of each was petty larceny.

The Lexington, Missouri, *Caucasian*, a paper which advocates the "passive policy," wishes, from the bottom of its heart, "that the people might now find a Guy Fawkes to overthrow the next Congress, (meaning the United States Congress), and by the stimulative power of a million tons of nitro-glycerine, blow it as near to heaven as any of its thieves will ever get."

It is now said that the so-called "Darwin theory" of the development of man from animals did not derive its origin from him. Abu-be-kr-ihn (to fall), an author and philosopher of Arabia, propounded this system as early as the twelfth century. An account of this writer and his theory was published by Pocoke, at Oxford, in 1671. Abu-be-kr-ihn (to fall) died in the year 1190.

At one of his lectures George Francis Train shouted, "Now, then, anybody can ask me questions." Whereupon an old lady got up and said, "Mr. Train, I would like to know what makes a pot leg always turn in two in the middle?" The great American traveler was nonplussed.

An intelligent compositor recently set up a poem on Cleopatra, containing the line, "Star-eyed Egyptian, glorious sorceress of the Nile." When it appeared in print it read, "Strayed Egyptian, glorious success of thine lie."

A "new departure," and a sensible one, in the arrangement of the text of the New Testament, has been made in England. In a new edition recently printed at the Oxford University Press for the Bible Society, the text is arranged in paragraphs, and the conversations are distinguished by suitable quotation marks, while the argumentative portions, such as the Epist